FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

2 APRIL 1984

Israel

Jerusalem Terrorist Attack — "Terrorists" attacked pedestrians in central Jerusalem on 2 April, injuring 48 people, the Israeli police announced in an official communique reported by Jerusalem radio. Three terrorists shot at passersby and attacked a shop and a bus with hand grenades but were captured after civilians and soldiers in the area returned fire, seriously wounding one of the attackers, the radio said.

Coalition Leaderships — At a 1 April meeting of Herut ministers, Minister Without Portfolio Ari'el Sharon made it clear that he is determined to run for the Herut leadership while Deputy Prime Minister David Levi said he would announce his decision shortly, IDF Radio reported. The ministers agreed to hold the leadership contest on 12 April. Earlier, Jerusalem radio confirmed that there will be no contest for the Labor Party leadership following announcements by former President Yitzhaq Navon and former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin disclaiming any intention to contest Labor Party and Alignment leader Shim'on Peres' position.

U.S. Embassy Issue — Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir denied reports that Israel is recommending a compromise over the issue of moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, IDF Radio reported. Nevertheless, Jerusalem radio subsequently announced that a compromise on the issue is emerging in Washington between the Reagan administration and senators friendly to Israel.

Military Policy, Weapons — Israeli officials expressed "strong doubt" that Israel would take the lead in seeking a military solution to Iraq's acquisition of chemical weapons, *THE JERUSALEM POST* reported. Meanwhile, *DER SPIEGEL* charged that Israel has secretly obtained a 120-mm gun as used in West Germany's Leopard tank in order to copy the design for use in its own Merkavas, according to AFP.

Lebanon

IDF Action in Al-Biqa' — The IDF shelled two "terrorist" command bases south of Barr Ilyas in the Al-Biqa' valley on 1 April, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement reported by Jerusalem radio. The action was in response to increased "terrorist" activity against Israeli forces in the eastern sector in which eight IDF soldiers were wounded in recent incidents. Monitored Syrian media did not mention the shelling, but the Phalangist Voice of Lebanon and clandestine Radio Free Lebanon radios asserted that the IDF bombardment hit Syrian as well as Palestinian positions, causing several casualties and sparking fierce Syrian-Israeli artillery duels in which the Syrians used long-range missiles. The clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio also spoke of violent clashes between Syrian and Israeli forces on 1 April. Voice of Lebanon had earlier reported that Syrian and Israeli forces exchanged fire in the Al-Biqa' on 30 April although monitored Israeli and Syrian media did not confirm the report. Further west, two IDF soldiers were wounded when another IDF patrol was ambushed in Sidon, IDF Radio reported on 1 April.

Beirut Situation, Political Developments — Clashes continued in the mountain area over the weekend, according to Beirut radio. Meanwhile, French troops completed their evacuation from Beirut, and Internal Security Forces took over their vacated checkpoints in the Al-Barbir-Museum area, Paris and Beirut radios noted. President Amin al-Jumayyil chaired a meeting of the Higher Political Security Committee during which arrangements for reopening Beirut International Airport were discussed, according to Beirut radio.

A Soviet delegation headed by CPSU Central Committee International Department chief Karen Brutents arrived in Lebanon and held talks with both Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt and Amal leader Nabih Birri, according to the PSP's Voice of the Mountain radio. Arrangements were also made for Brutents to meet with Foreign Minister Elie Salim, Beirut radio noted.

Al-Murabitun leader Ibrahim Qulaylat discussed developments in Lebanon with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Libya, Al-Murabitun's clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio reported.

Syria

Al-Asad Activities — President Hafiz al-Asad held meetings on 31 March with the senior Soviet military adviser in Syria, Algerian FLN official Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, and Oregon Governor Victor Atiyeh, according to Damascus radio and television reports. Al-Asad told the American visitor that the United States cannot play a constructive role in the region when it is absolutely biased toward Israel and that Syria has no confidence in the credibility of the U.S. Administration, the radio reported. Messaadia said he had conveyed a message to Al-Asad from the Algerian president and discussed Arab and international issues, according to SANA. A "Gulf official" cited by Radio Monte Carlo said Messaadia failed to persuade the Syrian leadership to adopt a "neutral" stand in the Iran-Iraq war. Meanwhile, diplomatic sources in Damascus said Al-Asad's talks with the senior Soviet military adviser were aimed at reassuring Soviet leaders over the security of Soviet military advisers in Syria, Jerusalem radio's Arabic service reported.

Policy, Comment on Lebanon — It is incorrect to view the partition of Lebanon as a purely Lebanese affair, and Syria will confront any attempt to partition the country just as it confronted the 17 May agreement, Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' stated in a press interview reported by Beirut radio. Meanwhile, Damascus radio said the decision to withdraw the 6th Fleet from Lebanese waters shows that the United States has suffered a major political and military defeat which marks the beginning of the "final recession" of its influence from the region. An *AL-BA'TH* editorial quoted by the radio warned that the decision to withdraw the fleet may be "just a maneuver prior to a major act of aggression."

Jordan

It is "simply impossible" for Jordan to come to terms with Israel's attitude that "what is yours is ours," King Husayn stated at a 30 March press conference broadcast by Amman television. Israel not only occupies all of Palestine, some Syrian territory, and southern Lebanon, he said, but also has designs on part of southern Jordan. The king expressed interest in the prospect of a Labor Party victory in the forthcoming Israeli elections, asserting that this might be a "healthy" change because "Labor appears to be more responsible in terms of its announced position so far."

While reaffirming that "the American scene has been violated by the influence of the Israeli lobby and Israel," Husayn stressed that this is not a criticism of an individual or the U.S. Administration, adding that he has "the highest respect" for President Reagan. As for Jordan's air defense requirements, the king confirmed that "Stinger is no more" and said he will look at "everything that is available" in order to fill the "gap" in Jordan's capabilities. Possible acquisition of British alternatives to the Stinger was not "to my knowledge" discussed during Queen Elizabeth's recent visit to Jordan, the king stated.

Egypt

Mubarak Interview — Egypt's relations with the Soviet Union will be restored to normal soon, President Husni Mubarak disclosed in an interview carried by MENA. The Soviet Union is a superpower which cannot be ignored, he stated, and if no momentum can be given to the Middle East peace process through existing initiatives, "which must be approved by the superpowers," the only solution is to hold an international conference.

ICO Membership — Egypt will officially resume its membership of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) on 2 April, SPA reported.

Libya

The border with Egypt was opened on 31 March to facilitate visits by Egyptian citizens working in Libya, JANA announced. Any measures to prevent these workers from crossing the border will be considered the responsibility of the Egyptians, JANA added citing sources at a Libyan passports and customs office.

Iran-Iraq War

Air Activity — Iranian fighter-bombers on 30 March "completely destroyed" Iraqi forces and military installations in Rawanduz, 'Ali ash-Sharqi, and 'Ali al-Gharbi, Iran announced in the 30 March military communique broadcast by Tehran radio. Iraq, in its 30 March communique carried by Baghdad radio, charged that Iranian warplanes bombed "civilian quarters" in Rawanduz and 'Ali al-Gharbi, killing 8 civilians and wounding 17.

In other developments, Iran shot down an Iraqi helicopter over Mehran on 28 March, an Iraqi fighter plane over Faqqah on 30 March, and another fighter in the Khaybar sector on 31 March, according to military communiques carried by Tehran radio. Communiques broadcast by Baghdad radio announced that Iraqi planes and helicopter gunships attacked Iranian positions east of Basra and in the Maysan sector on 30 and 31 March and again on 1 April, inflicting "huge losses." Baghdad radio reported that all aircraft returned safely to base.

Algerian Delegation to Iraq -- An Algerian delegation led by Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the FLN Political Bureau, left Baghdad on 30 March after holding talks with high-ranking Iraqi officials, Baghdad radio reported. The talks centered on the expansion of bilateral relations and developments in the Iran-Iraq war, INA added. According to a "ranking Gulf official" cited by Radio Monte Carlo, the Algerian delegation's regional tour is more of a fact-finding mission than an actual mediation to end the war.

Security Council Statement — The Iranian Foreign Ministry, in a statement carried by Tehran radio, characterized the Security Council's reaction to the UN report on Iraqi chemical weapons use as a failure by the Council to perform its duty, making it "more obvious than ever" that the superpowers were "involved" in supplying Iraq with such weapons. The Foreign Ministry held the Council "directly responsible" for continued use of chemical weapons.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Before concluding its meetings in Tunis on 31 March, the 81st Arab League Council session approved a proposal to hold an emergency meeting in Tunis on 15 May to discuss the agenda and set a date for the 13th Arab summit conference in Riyadh, KUNA and INA reported. The Council also commissioned League Secretary General Chedli Klibi to form two committees, one to deal with the Arab-Israeli conflict and the other with inter-Arab cooperation, KUNA added. At the request of the PLO, the Council decided to convene an emergency meeting in Algiers of Islamic foreign ministers to discuss the future of Jerusalem, AFP stated. The Council also unanimously approved a Lebanese proposal regarding southern Lebanon and Israeli activities there, Beirut radio reported.

Meanwhile, the seven-man committee set up by the Arab League to discuss the Iran-Iraq war also concluded its meetings in Tunis but did not issue a statement on its resolutions or recommendations, KUNA noted. The Saudi foreign minister, in comments cited by SPA, said the committee had agreed on the procedures and international contacts it would make in order to end the war.

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SPA Reports Egypt To Rejoin ICO 2 Apr
LD011336 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1315 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Jidda 1 Apr (SPA) — The Arab Republic of Egypt will resume Monday its official membership in the Islamic Conference Organization. It has been decided that the organization secretary general, Habib Chatti, will receive tomorrow the credentials of Ambassador Ahmad Abu al-Khayr as Egypt's permanent representative to the organization.

The fourth Islamic summit, held in Casablanca last January, decided to call upon Egypt to resume its membership in the organization.

ANA Quotes DFLP'S Hawatimah Statement in Moscow
GF311824 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the DFLP, has stated that he held intensive and profound talks with the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party and with the chairmanship of the Soviet Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity during his visit to the Soviet capital .

In a statement to ANA correspondent in Moscow, he noted that these talks took place in accordance with the authorization of those who took part in the Aden Palestinian meeting, which unanimously adopted a resolution to authorize the DFLP to discuss the results of the Aden Palestinian meeting with the Soviet comrades.

Brother Nayif Hawatimah went on to say that the Syrian-Soviet statement was a topic of discussion in Aden. It also served to prompt the discussion of the latest developments in the Palestinian and Arab arenas with the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party in Moscow to coordinate efforts to ensure the restoration of the unity of the PLO by confronting the policy of capitulation, the policy of Camp David and the Reagan plan. He said this will continue the struggle and promote the holding of an expanded international conference with the participation of the Soviet Union, the nonaligned countries, and the PLO, — the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people — under the auspices of the United Nations to solve the Palestinian issue and the Middle East issue in such a way that ensures Arab and the Palestinian rights and that extracts the Middle East issue from the clutches of U.S. imperialism, where it has been for the past 10 years.

Brother Nayif Hawatimah said that the Moscow talks clearly confirmed that Soviet support for our issues, our national issues will remain firm until [word indistinct] and victory is attained. He added that the talks also demonstrated the warm Soviet welcome of the Aden talks.

He then lauded the role of the YSP, particularly its Political Bureau and its Secretary General Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers in the PDRY, for holding the Aden Palestinian meeting, for taking part in bridging the differences, and for ensuring national, revolutionary, and realistic solutions to cement the four-party democratic alliance of the DFLP, PFLP, the Palestine Liberation Front, and the Palestinian Communist Party, so that this alliance will be the basis for ensuring the unity of the PLO and the recognition of the legitimate institutions [words indistinct] (?and lay seige around) those who violated the resolutions of the Algiers session.

DFLP-PFLP Condemn 'Arafat-Mubarak Meeting
LD011452 Kuwait KUNA in English 1409 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Damascus, April 1 (KUNA) — PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has dealt a grave setback to inter-Palestinian reconciliation moves by meeting Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Conakry Saturday, two major PLO groupings said in a joint statement released here Sunday.

The joint command of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) — the two largest PLO groupings outside the divided mainstream Fatah movement — said that 'Arafat's action was a blow to current efforts aimed at bridging the gap between supporters and opponents of the PLO chairman within the Palestinian revolution.

The PFLP and DFLP were severely critical of the 'Arafat-Mubarak talks in Cairo last December — which violated Palestine National Council (the PLO's parliament) resolutions to maintain no ties with Egypt until it abrogated its Camp David treaty with Israel — a move later described by 'Arafat's supporters in the Fatah Central Committee as an individual initiative.

The PFLP and DFLP, alongside other Palestinian groupings which were neutral in fighting last year between 'Arafat's supporters and opponents within Fatah, have been meeting in Aden to finalize proposals for a broad national front in the PLO that would implement a collective leadership and adhere to PLO policy as a way of reinstituting Palestinian unity in the wake of the controversy over 'Arafat's leadership.

But the joint command statement said that the PLO chairman's actions in Conakry, after the funeral of former Guinean president Ahmad Sekou Toure held there Saturday, flew in the face of the Aden conference's efforts.

The meeting was evidence of further deviation by PLO rightists and violation of PNC resolutions which required a firm response by Palestinian groupings, the statement said calling on all Palestinian forces, unions and personalities to unite around the Aden call.

Syria Reportedly Rejects Algerian Mediation
JN012140 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2030 GMT 1 Apr 84

[From the "Panorama" Program; 'Ali Hashim's dispatch from Kuwait]

[Excerpts] A ranking Gulf official has stated that Algerian efforts to end the Iraqi-Iranian war have reached a dead end. Commenting on the tour by Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid's envoy and secretary of the FLN Central Committee's Permanent Secretariat, the Gulf official said that this tour is more of a fact-finding mission than one for mediation, and that even though the Arab Gulf countries welcome it, the tour is faced with intransigent Iranian conditions that have been rejected by Iraq.

The Gulf official said that Algeria is using Messaadia's visit to Damascus to see if it can get the Damascus regime to adopt a netural stand that will help to suspend the assistance some Arab countries are giving to Iran, and consequently to convince Iran to halt the fighting and hold negotiations. However, the Syrian regime rejected this and insisted on its stand, considering it a strategic stand which cannot be changed and which deals with Iraqi-Syrian relations. The Syrian regime called for nonintervention, saying that it is a party issue and a domestic Syrian affair.

In reply to a question on the reasons for the recent Algerian envoy's tour and the Gulf countries' welcoming this tour, the Gulf official said that the support for the Algerian mediation does not mean either a belief in its usefulness or in the possibility of its success. It is based on continuing to be hopeful so that it would not be said that the GCC does not give the necessary attention to the question of halting the war.

Reportage on Tunis Arab League Meetings

Agreement on Iran-Iraq War

LD301348 Riyadh SPA in English 1217 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Tunis, March 30, SPA — Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said the Arab Leagues's seven-man committee had agreed on procedures and international contacts it would make in its efforts to end the 41-month-old Iran-Iraq war.

In a statement to SPA here last night in the wake of the committee's meeting, Prince Sa'ud said international contacts would take place to terminate the war between the two Muslim countries.

The committee held a side meeting here earlier yesterday.

The committee groups Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Kuwait, Tunis, Iraq, Morocco, North Yemen as well as the Arab League's secretary-general.

Prince Sa'ud is taking part in the three-day meeting of the Arab League Council now in progress in the Tunisian capital.

Klibi To Form 2 Committees

LD302028 Kuwait KUNA in English 1857 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Tunis, March 30 (KUNA) — The Arab League Council Friday assigned Secretary General Chedli Klibi to form two committees on the Arab-Israeli conflict and joint Arab endeavor.

The Arab-Israeli conflict and international relations committee will discuss a number of issues including the possibility of imposing Israeli legislation on the occupied West Bank, and Gaza Strip, the Israeli scheme to move the Palestinian refugee camps from the occupied lands and the Israeli plan to dig a canal linking the Mediterranean with the Dead Sea.

The committee will discuss other issues topped by resisting Israeli presence within the Asian group of nations in international organizations, commercial and military cooperation between Israel and Taiwan, Thailand and Singapore, rejecting Israeli credentials at the U.N. in addition to Arab relations with Europe and Africa.

The second committee will debate questions "pertaining to inter-Arab cooperation within the spirit of the Arab League charter."

The two committees will table their recommendations to the extraordinary Arab foreign ministers meeting scheduled to be held in Tunis in mid-May.

AL-QABAS on Session

GF311626 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 30 Mar 84 p 1

['Amid ash-Shanti dispatch from Tunis]

[Excerpts] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, deputy prime minister, foreign minister and information minister, gave a speech at the meeting of the Arab League Council which began here yesterday. In his speech, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad saluted Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi and said that the current situation requires that he remains in his post.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad rejected the proposal by one of the Arab countries to discuss a rumor that Kuwait intends to sell its "Hawker Hunter" military aircraft. Kuwait needs all kinds of weapons and it will not sell its arms to anyone, he said.

The Arab seven-member committee [on the Iraqi-Iranian war] ended its meeting yesterday. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad told *AL-QABAS* that during the meeting, the conferees discussed an intensive working plan which will be carried out very soon.

AL-QABAS has learned from other sources that the plan involves making contacts with the capitals of the superpowers to convince them to intervene to stop the Gulf war and making contacts with Iran to learn of its conditions to end the war.

In another development, many Arab countries rejected a bill to amend the Arab League's charter which consists of 56 articles. During yesterday's session, the conferees discussed the formation of a political committee to discuss the issue of moving the U.S. Embassy to occupied Jerusalem and the adoption of a unified Arab stand on this issue. The conferees rejected a proposal by the PLO to form a delegation of seven ministers, including Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, to visit Washington to let Washington know of its responsibility in this matter.

Meanwhile, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz made a statement to *AL-QABAS* denying a report by Egyptian press saying that Iraq will propose, during the Arab League's current session, the return of Egypt to the Arab league. "We expect the Arab League to do good," 'Aziz said.

15 May Emergency Meeting Set

GF310824 Jidda Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The Arab League Council will end its 3-day foreign ministers' ordinary meeting today and will announce its decisions, recommendations and results. It has been decided at this meeting to hold an emergency foreign ministers' meeting in Tunis on 15 May to discuss the important issues on the agenda of the next Arab summit meeting.

The council commissioned Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi to form two committees; the first to deal with the Arab-Israeli dispute and the international relations and the other to deal with the subject of joint Arab work. The two committees will present their recommendations to the league's emergency ministerial meeting.

Jerusalem Discussed

NC311910 Paris AFP in English 1858 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Tunis, March 31 (AFP) — The Arab League Council today endorsed a request by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to convene an extraordinary meeting of foreign ministers of Islamic countries on the future of Jerusalem.

Arab League secretary-general Chedli Klibi said at the close of the council's three-day 81st regular meeting that "increasing dangers" threaten the holy city due to "Israeli actions that violate all principles and aim to drive out its Arab population and change the symbols of their civilization."

The matter would be further examined at the proposed conference in Algiers by the foreign ministers of the 21 members of the League (20 Arab countries and the PLO) and those of other Moslem nations. The date for the meeting was not fixed.

In a veiled reference to a proposal in the U.S. Congress to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, the council said in a resolution it hoped Arab countries "will not be forced to take measures likely to slow the development of their relations with any state" because of such moves.

The council also voted to "support Lebanon" against Israeli occupation, promote "reconciliation between the various Lebanese national forces" and condemned "Israeli attempts to liquidate the Palestinian cause."

The council decided to convene a special meeting of foreign ministers next May 15 here on a twice-postponed 13th Arab summit.

The council decided to create two commissions, one on the Arab-Israeli conflict, the other on common Arab policy, that will draft resolutions to be submitted at the summit.

Earlier, the council unanimously reelected Mr Klibi, a Tunisian, to a second five-year term.

The council also said it was "confident the pursuit of Arab efforts in all areas will convince our friends in Europe to support Arab rights more effectively."

Council Elects Officials

LD312031 Kuwait KUNA in English 1550 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Tunis, March 31 (KUNA) — The Arab League Council concluded its three-day meetings here Saturday in which ten Arab foreign ministers attended.

The council elected three to the post of assistant secretary general and appointed the members of the Executive Council to the Arab fund for technical assistance for Africa.

The three chosen for the assistant secretary general post were Lakhdar Brahimi from Algeria, Ibrahim Sa'd Ibrahim from Saudi Arabia, Mahdi Mustafa al Hadi from Sudan.

The council renewed the tenure of 'Adnan Umran from Syria, Muhammad al Farra from Palestine, 'Abd-al-Muhsin Zalzalah, from Iraq, As'ad al As'ad from Lebanon and Mohammed Ben Slama from Tunisia as assistant general secretaries.

At the closing session, the Arab League secretary general Chedli Klibi delivered a speech in which he reviewed important resolutions adopted by the Arab League 81st session and thanked the Arab countries' representatives for renewing his tenure for another five-year term.

The seven-man Arab Committee emanating from the Arab foreign ministers emergency conference held in Baghdad March 13 also concluded its meetings but did not issue a statement on its resolutions or recommendations.

The council decided to call for an emergency meeting for the Islamic countries' foreign ministers in Algiers to discuss the issue of Jerusalem and current efforts in the U.S. to dislocate [as received] the American Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The council reiterated the significance of abidance of Arab countries by former resolutions to sever relations with any country that carry out such a step.

The Arab League Council called for encouraging the purchase of citrus crops from the occupied Gaza Strip, in a way that does not contradict with the Arab boycott of Israel resolutions, and called for support to the agriculture in the occupied Arab territories to help Arabs under occupation to stand steadfast and confront the Zionist enemy attempts to force them out of their lands.

The Arab League Council affirmed "the Arab nation's determination to back the steadfastness of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, in order to restore their national rights and establish their independent state on their national soil."

The council also called on Arab countries to facilitate the entry of products of Lebanon from the occupied south Lebanon in implementation to resolutions adopted by the Arab Economic and Social Council.

Arab League Council warned against the dangers of the continued Israeli occupation of south Lebanon and condemned the Israeli arbitrary practices there.

On the cultural sector, the council agreed to extend financial and technical assistance to Somalia to contribute to the success of the project of Arabization in that Arab country.

The council recommended establishing the Arab translation institute in Algiers.

Kuwait's delegation to the meeting was headed by Deputy Premier, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and grouped [as received] Kuwait's ambassador here and permanent representative to the Arab league Mizran al-Hamad and other Kuwaiti officials.

The other Arab foreign ministers who attended the meetings were Tahir al-Masri of Jordan, Beji Caid Essebsi of Tunisia, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal of Saudi Arabia, Faruq ash-Shar' of Syria, Abdurahman Jama Barre of Somalia, Tariq 'Aziz of Iraq, Abdelouahid Belkeziz of Morocco, Dr Ahmad Muhammad al-Asbahi of the Yemen Arab Republic and 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali of Democratic Yemen.

The Algerian delegation was headed by minister of Post and Communications Boualem Bessaiah, while other delegations were led by ranking officials.

Fatah Central Committee Ends Meetings in Tunis

JN301526 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Tunis, 30 Mar (INA) — The Fatah Central Committee has described the results of the recent Arab foreign ministers' emergency conference in Baghdad to discuss the Iraq-Iran war was a positive step in the course of stopping this war under the Fes summit resolutions.

In a statement it issued today at the end of its current session of meetings, which lasted 1 day and ended here last night, the Fatah Central Committee said it familiarized itself with the results of the contacts made by its delegations to Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Algeria.

The Central Committee approved certain practical steps pertaining to the Arab-Islamic moves concerning the Jerusalem issue and the plot to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The statement says that the Fatah Central Committee discussed the results of the contacts which a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation held in Algeria on the subject of strengthening the Palestinian citizens' steedfastness in the occupied territories. The committee entrusted several of its members to follow up these efforts to achieve the desired results.

The Central Committee expressed its appreciation of the heroisms recorded by the Palestinian Arab people in facing the Zionist occupation in the occupied territory. The committee was also acquainted with a report on the conference to be held in Norway by all the European committees of solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people. The committee assigned one of its members to attend the conference. It also emphasized the necessity to complete the preparations for convening the Fatah movement congress.

The committee also decided that Yasir 'Arafat shall head the Palestinian delegation which will attend the funeral of the late Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure in the Guinean capital today.

'Arafat Meets 'Aziz

JN301823 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar (Yasir 'Arafat] met in Tunis yesterday with Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister. During the meeting, they discussed the situation in the Arab arena in general and the Palestinian arena in particular. They also discussed bilateral relations between the PLO and Iraq and the latest developments in the Iraq-Iran war.

BAHRAIN

Jordan's Al-Qasim Arrives in Manama 31 Mar

GF311320 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1203 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 31 Mar (WAKH) — Marwan al-Qasim, envoy of King Husayn of Jordan and chief of the Jordanian Royal Court, arrived in Manama from Doha this afternoon on a 2-day visit to Bahrain during his current tour of a number of countries in the region.

Conveys Husayn Message

GF311802 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1746 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 31 Mar (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, has received a message from King Husayn of Jordan on current Arab developments, the threats being posed on Jordan, the means of dealing with the world in a way that would ensure the Arab nation's rights, and issues of common concern.

The message was conveyed by Marwal al-Qasim, envoy to King Husayn of Jordan and chief of the Jordanian Royal Court, during his meeting with the amir of Bahrain in Manama this evening.

Departs for Kuwait

GF011020 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0525 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 1 Apr (WAKH) — Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Jordanian Royal Court, left Manama for Kuwait this morning, following 1-day visit to Bahrain during his current tour of a number of the region's states. During his visit he delivered a written message to Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah from King Husayn of Jordan, on current Arab developments, the threats posed on Jordan, and the means to deal with the countries of the world in a way which serves the interests of the Arab nation, in addition to issues of mutual interest.

KUWAIT

Al-Qasim Brings Husayn Message to Amir

JN012224 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Amman —UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a message from His Majesty King Husayn. Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, conveyed the message when His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan received him this afternoon. Kuwaiti amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah received a similar message, which Al-Qasim conveyed this morning.

In a statement to journalists before departing from the Kuwaiti airport, Al-Qasim stated that his visit falls during a tour of the Gulf states to convey messages from His Majesty King Husayn on the current Arab situation, and to convey his majesty the king's efforts to crystallize a joint Arab stand in order to confront the challenges the Arab nation is facing. Al-Qasim said that his Majesty King Husayn will visit the region's countries soon for talks with their leaders to assess the current Arab situation and to emphasize the need to hold an Arab meeting as soon as possible to agree on unified stand on all issues. Al-Qasim asserted that the Jordanian stand on implementing the Arab Collective Defense pact in order to support Iraq in its just war has been obvious since the beginning.

Al-Qasim will later visit Oman in order to convey a message to His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id from His Majesty King Husayn.

QATAR

Al-Qasim Delivers Husayn Message to Al Thani

GF311315 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] His highness, the amir, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani received a letter from King Husayn, monarch of the fraternal kingdom of Jordan, on Arab and international developments and a number of issues of mutual concern. The letter was delivered by Mr Marwan al-Qasim, head of the Jordanian Royal Court, during his meeting with the amir at his office at Ad-Dawhah Palace at 1030 [0730 GMT] this morning.

The meeting was attended by Information Minister 'Isa Ghanim al-Kuwari.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Fahd Addresses Cabinet on Budget

LD012108 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text of speech by His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz at the beginning of the cabinet meeting held to approve the general state budget for the fiscal year commencing April 1984]

[Excerpts] My brother and sister compatriots; peace and God's blessing be upon you.

It gives me pleasure to speak to you on the occasion of the new financial year, the last year of the third development plan.

Brothers, during the financial year which has just ended, I followed closely the efforts made by a governmental committee to implement, the projects and services required for the citizens. I was pleased when I saw that many achievements were actually made during the year, and that the citizens have actually begun to benefit from this work, in addition to what was already achieved during past years.

In regard to primary and secondary education, 742 new schools and 15 teachers' training establishments were opened. The construction of 380 schools has been completed. Two intermediate colleges for girls and another two for boys have been opened. Thus there more than 13,900 primary and secondary schools in the country,attended by about 1.8 million boys and girls.

As for university education, 7,500 male and female students graduated last year in various fields of specialization. The number of students who entered the universities last year was 75,000. During the past year there were 60 colleges with 400 specializations, in addition to 45 colleges which belong to other educational institutes.

In the sphere of health services 18 hospitals were opened, containing 2,700 beds; 76 new clinics and 7 new social homes for child care were opened. In the field of municipal services,projects related to drinking water and sewage in nine towns were completed. As for desalination projects, work was completed on the second phase of the desalination plant at Al-Jubayl; two desalination plants at Rabigh and Al-Burayk were commissioned. The total output of these plants is now 225 million gallons of drinking water. The total capacity of all plants is now 500 million gallons.

With the help of God five large dams were completed in Bahar, Durma, and (Yunbu), together with 78 small and medium dams, unlike what was built previously. As for new roads, work was completed last year on the construction of 1,800 km of modern roads which were opened for traffic, in addition to 820 km of new agricultural roads. Thus the Kingdom now has some 28,000 km of modern roads, and more than 39,000 km of agricultural roads. King Khalid Airport in Riyadh was opened, while construction was completed on the (Al-Ihsa) Airport, and the King 'Abd al-'Aziz Airport in Jidda was enlarged.

Twelve new quays were commissioned in Jizan Airport, which helped in providing shipments to the southern region, particularly after modern roads had been built facilitating shipment from the port to all the parts of the southern region. A port was also built on Al-Farasan Island, and a shipyard was constructed at Ad-Dammam port.

In cable and telecommunications, a total of 90,000 new telephone lines were established in the last financial year, and the number of telephone lines in the Kingdom has thus become 1.2 million, serving 200 towns and villages. Work was completed on 22 buildings for postal and telephone services.

In regard to the general electrification of the kingdom, new power stations were built and electric networks were constructed for distribution of electricity in nine regions: Ha'il, Najran, Al-Kasirah, Al-Jawf, (Tabrajl), Jizan, Ranyah and southern Zahran.

In industry, we opened last year, thanks to God, three plants in Al-Jubayl for the production of petrochemicals, in addition to training centers and water refrigeration installations for industrial production. The (Yubu) oil refinery was completed, while the Rabigh refinery is nearing completion.

Thus we were able to bring the country, thanks be to God, to the stage of diversifying its industrial products along with petroleum and its by-products, hoping to find the expected cooperation from the friendly countries and their welcoming the arrival of these products on the international markets. As for grain silos, their capacity has risen during the past year to 35,000 tons and the total capacity has reached 885,000 tons.

Agricultural production is expected to reach up to 130,000 tons.

As for the national industry, the Industrial Development Fund granted 66 loans, valued at over 1 billion riyals and it also started production for the first time of an additional 130 new private factories. The other development funds have provided citizens with interest-free direct loans for the construction of houses, utilities and other investments. The Real Estate Fund provided loans to 35,000 citizens in various parts of the Kingdom to build modern houses to the value of 890 million riyals, in addition to the government's building of 11,000 houses for the Armed Forces, along side with continuous work on completing other governmental housing projects.

The total amounts provided by all the funds since their inception reached 149 million riyals. These funds will continue, God willing. Besides loans, the government provides direct grants to reduce the cost of living and provides subsidies for production. Last year the government provided 3.15 billion riyals in aid to agricultural production. Electricity-generating companies received aid to reduce charges to consumers, amounting to 3 billion riyals.

The total sum the government spent in the form of aid reached 10.45 billion riyals. This is the most prominent achievement in the last fiscal year.

As for the coming year, more projects and services will be provided, with God's assistance. A total of 128.7 billion riyals will be spent on new development projects and programs in all spheres.

Brothers: I have not been able to point out here all the projects that have been completed in our dear country during the past 11 years; it is up to ministers to tell the citizens what has been achieved.

There is no doubt that there have been those who tried to create obstacles in the past, but no one has been able, or will be able, to obstruct the Islamic faith if we follow the right path and seek God's help. We shall then be happy in our life and death. This is why the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's external and internal policy stem from adherence to the Islamic faith.

We do not want to have problems with anyone, and under no circumstances do we want to be anything but friends with all, particularly with our Muslim friends from all parts of the world.

If we go back 30 years to compare how we were then, we will see what we have become, especially if we look at the Kingdom's development over the past 11 or 12 years. [sentence as received] Perhaps we, as citizens, will not feel this development as much as a person who comes to the Kingdom after an absence of not less than 10 years or more and sense what is here. Who would have believed that petroleum production would reach from the Gulf to the Red Sea, andthousands of millions worth of projects would be constructed in Aj-Jubayl, (Yanbu), Rabigh and other places.

The same applies to dates. The minister of agriculture may correct me concerning the date packing plant. I have heard according to some statements that exports from this packing plant have reached 17,000 tons of dates per annum. This is another plant, built a short time ago, which provides both for consumers and for exports. It is a great blessing that we have reached such a level in the production of dates.

Therefore, agriculture is the basic thing that sustains life and its needs. An agricultural country, with God's help, can continue until it can become self-sufficient. We must also complete the prospecting work we have started for all the useful and constructive materials that may benefit the homeland and which can be exported.

According to what the minister of petroleum and mineral resources had told me, prospecting work continues quite well. Many minerals have been discovered — minerals that benefit the citizen at home and that also can be exported. The petroleum commodity is exhaustable and its price is liable to drop, as we all know. We used to produce 11 million barrels but now production is fluctuating according to market demand and it ranges between 4.5 million and 3.5 million barrels.

Naturally, we hope that things return to normal. There are several reasons for the fall in production, as far as OPEC is concerned. However, there has been a great campaign. Things reached such an extent that some states ordered their citizens to reduce the consumption of oil or electicity and so on. This however, cannot continue indefinitely and the citizens of any country will not be able to endure that forever. They might bear it for 1 or 2 years but people in the end want to enjoy life. It is hoped that things will return to normal, and the great hope and what is required is that we as an oil-producing state — that is, OPEC — should reach a measure of understanding as a joint interest, and come to an understanding over how we should face such matters through constructive methods so as not to have any conflict or dissention among the oil producing states, each according to his ability and to what he can produce provided that no side should benefit at the expense of any other side.[as received] We must realize that oil is like any other material, and we must rely not on it but on Almighty God above all else and, second, we should rely on what is available in our homeland in the form of precious metals and on what we can make out of those metals and make use of at home so we have no further need to import steel and so forth.

Some time ago a gold mine was opened. Although production is small as far as gold is concerned, I imagine, according to what I have been told by the minister of petroleum and mineral resources, this is a beginning which may develop, in the same location or elsewhere; there are many minerals, the details of which I cannot remember. Perhaps it is better not to disclose these details in one way or another. We as citizens should always work in order to be producers and exporters.

We do not wish to have any problems with anyone. It is fortunate that the Kingdom's policy has been established on firm foundations and cannot be changed, thanks be to God — we do not create a problem for anybody. I cannot recall that the Kingdom has ever endeavored to create a problem for anybody; it always shoulders its responsibilities and offers what it can in terms of assistance to friendly countries. Therefore we only seek to be friends and to avoid problems for our country, which can harm our industry or stability or security. No harm will come our way if we adhere to our Islamic faith. According to this rule, which is practiced by the Kingdom and which is the correct rule — no country in the world can say that the Kingdom has interfered in its affairs. We are anxious that all this should be clear and we have nothing to conceal; we do not endeavor to harm any country in the world irrespective of its kind or form. But at the same time, we do not permit anyone to interfere in our affairs.

The bases of policy were laid down a long time ago, scores of years ago. They were established by the late King 'Abd al-'Aziz, may God have mercy on him, and those who succeeded him. Policy was established on very firm foundations — namely Islamic foundations. And as long as we adhedre to the Islamic faith and to what Almighty God has permitted, and obey his orders, then there should be no fear. We want good for all. We also want to be friends if possible, or at least that others should respect us and we respect them. There are Arab problems and there is some Arab confusion in regard to the relationship between Arab states. Naturally those who are not within the framework of the Arab nation will not care so much and may wish this conflict or disagreement to continue.

We in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia always tell non-Arabs: If you consider this as a basic difference you are wrong. We regard the differences that now exist in the Arab climate as differences in the search for the best and most favorable methods that can bring the Arab nation together. Our way of thinking in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is this: The differences are not basic and are not irrevocable,but are considered disagreements in the search for something better; naturally this has conditions, reasons, and causes. Among the most important conditions that must be provided are the existence of stability and the need for confidence to prevail among states so as to prevent anyone who wants to harm the Arab nation or find a pretext to set off against us. We do not accuse anyone but we are aware that every state has interests. If these interests agree with ours and do not cause harm either to the basic foundation — namely our Islamic faith — or to our national interests, it will not cause us any harm, so that our friendship with the non-Islamic world can be a friendship of equals. This is for several reasons. First, we are a developing country and we are still in the process of growth and development. Second, there are big powers who are ahead of us in many things. Therefore, it is in the interests of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and it is prudent for it to follow the more proper and more correct way and not appoint itself as one who wants to steer the world to its way of thinking. People should be aware of what they can do. What concerns us in the first place is the Arab nation and that the leaders of the Arab nation should be in agreement. It is fortunate the that the relationship of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with its fraternal Arab countries and with the leaders of the Arab nation is an extremely excellent relationship. And we hope that it develops into something better. But we also hope that wisdom and reason will triumph over the problems that exist and we will confine such problems to a narrow framework and work for ending them so that they disappear completely.

As for our relations with the Islamic world, they are relations of fraternity and amity. We shall extend our hands to them as they have extended their hands to us, and consider our relations with them as states or with them as millions of people as strong and firm relations. We do interfere in the affairs of any state. It is logical that when you yourself do not want someone interfering in your own affairs you should respect others and not interfere in their affairs.

Finally, I hope that I have not spoken too much. We have before us (?many issues) that ought to be tackled. I hope that my brothers the ministers will not (?ask for too much). This is because the circumstances which we are in need consideration. The minister of finance cannot do more than can be done. But he is not alone. We are all taking part in what is needed to organize our affairs and to put the budget in its correct framework.

SPA Carries Summary of Approved Budget

LD012034 Riyadh SPA in English 1929 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Riyadh, April 1, SPA — Saudi Finance and National Economy Ministry has announced a brief summary of the new budget for fiscal year 1404/1405 H (1984/1985), which was approved by HK King Fahd and the Council of Ministers.

This budget commences as of the 1st 1404, corresponding to April 2, 1984, the announcement said.

The main features of the new budget expounded in the statement are the following:
1 — Total government revenues are estimated at SR 214,100 million and total expenditures at SR 260,000 million. The expected deficit of SR 45,900 million will be financed from the general reserves.

2 — In comparison with the actual expenditures of the previous budget, appropriations of the new budget have increased by SR37,680 million. Actual government expenditures for fiscal year 1403/1404 amounted to SR 222,320 million.

It is imperative at this juncture to mention other major achievements of the national economy during the past fiscal year.

A — Revenues:

It is estimated that the revenues would be about SR 225,000 million, but actual revenues amounted to only SR 187,320 million, about 17 percent less than budget estimate.

B — Expenditures:

Total actual expenditures amount to SR 222,320 million which is 16 per cent lower than budget estimate and nine per cent lower than last year's actual expenditures.

C — Total loan commitment provided by the specialized credit institutions, excluding the public investment fund, amounted during fiscal year 1403/1404 to SR 16,560 million, thus raising their total aggregate commitment to SR 148,950 million.

The public investment fund, by the end of the year 1403/1404 has extended loans valued at SR 74,385 million with the amount of SR 55,167 million actually disbursed. The beneficiaries of these loans are Petromin, Sabic, Saudi Arabian Airlines and other public investment projects.

D — Economic development indicators:

According to the central department of statistics estimates, the non-oil gross domestic product is estimated to have grown during fiscal year 1403/1404 at a real growth rate of five per cent. This attained rate of growth, reflects the ability of the Saudi economy to expand in real terms and produce more goods and services. Though, the completion of infrastructural and other major projects contributed to stabilization of the economy's growth rate. This indicates that the Saudi economy is converging into a realistic stable and secular growth path.

One of the most important features emerging from the national account figures indicate that the share of the private sector and the total real GDP has increased from only 25 per cent in fiscal 1393/94 to more than 52 per cent in 1403/1404, revealing the extent of the private sector participation in the economic development on one hand and the extent of the growth of the private sector itself on the other.

Money supply (M-3) is estimated to have increased by three to four per cent in 1403/1404. Commerical banks credit to the private sector rose by 18 per cent during the same year. Commercial bank assets and deposits increased by 3.8 per cent and 5.3 per cent, respectively, by year end. These reflect the strength of the banking sector and its ability to expand. Trade surplus is estimated by the end of 1403/1404 at SR 34,850 million and total imports during 1403/1404 ie estimated to have declined by 5.6 per cent at SR 127,450 million.

3 — Budget allocations:
The new budget includes the following appropriations for the major sector of the economy:
A — Education sector:

The allocations for this sector in the new budget amounted to SR 30,460 million, compared to actual expenditures of SR24,700 million during 1403/1404.

B — Social development:

This sector has been appropriated SR 18,080 million, against actual spending of SR 14,140 million during the year just ended.

C — Infrastructure:

The total appropriations for this sector amounted to SR 9,830 million, compared to an actual expenditure of SR 9,380 million in 1403/1404.

D — Muncipal services:

This sector has been allocated a total of SR 17,460 million, against actual expenditures in 1403/1404 of SR 11,130 million.

E — Transport and communications;

This sector's appropriations amounted to SR 23,630 million, compared to SR 22,190 million in 1403/1404.

F — Economic resources:

The total allocation for this sector amounted to SR 17,560 million. Actual spending for this sector during 1403/1404 was SR 16,400 million.

G — Domestic subsidies:

They have been allocated a total amount of SR 10,525 million.

H — Specialized lending institutions:

The appropriations to these institutions amounted to SR 16,000 million.

Forecasts indicate that if the budgeted estimates were attained, real non-oil GDP could increase to seven per cent by the end of the new fiscal year 1404/1405, money supply would rise by 14 per cent, and imports will increase by five per cent. These projected increases were due to the expected rise in government spending which is budgeted at 17 per cent higher than the actual expenditures by the private sector in the industrial and agricultural sectors of the economy.

Saudi-British Economic Committee Meeting Concludes

GF301115 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic0400 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] The meetings of the seventh session of the joint Saudi-British economic committee, which lasted 3 days, concluded in London yesterday.

During the meetings, the Saudi side was led by 'Abdallah 'Ali Rida under secretary at the Foreign Ministry for economic and cultural affairs.

A statement issued after the committee's meetings expressed optimism over the development of trade between the two countries and the realization of more cooperation in technical and economic matters between them.

In the statement the two sides expressed their commitment to the principles of free trade policy concerning the petrochemical industries in the Kingdom and to their aspiration to establish closer contacts on the governmental and industrial levels regarding the international marketing of Saudi petrochemicals. They also expressed satisfaction over the increasing development of joint projects and participation of the private sectors in the two countries.

Spanish Foreign Minister Moran Visits Riyadh

Arrives 31 Mar

GF311900 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Spanish Foreign Affairs Minister Fernando Moran arrived in Riyadh this evening on a visit to the Kingdom, beginning a tour which will also include Syria and Jordan.

He was received by His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign affairs minister; Salim Sunbul, chief of royal protocol; Ma'mun Qabbani, head of the Western Affairs Department of the Foreign Ministry; the Saudi ambassador to Spain; and the Spanish ambassador to the Kingdom.

Received by Prince Sa'ud

LD010959 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0910 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Riyadh, 1 Apr (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, had a meeting in his office this morning with Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran and his delegation,currently on a visit to the Kingdom.

Meets With Officials

LD012305 Riyadh SPA in English 1956 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Riyadh, April 1, SPA — Crown Prince 'Abdallah, the first deputy premier and commander of the National Guard received here this afternoon visiting Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran who delivered him a message from King Juan Carlos of Spain.

The meeting was attended by Salim Sunbul, chief of protocol at the Saudi Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Visiting Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran met here today with Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the second deputy premier and defence and aviation minister.

They reviewed bilateral relations.

The meeting was attended by Saudi ambassador to Spain Muhammad Nuri Ibrahim and the Spanish ambassador to the Kingdom.

On the other hand, a cultural cooperation accord between Saudi Arabia and Spain was signed here today by Moran and Saudi Higher Education Minister Hasan ash-Shaykh.

The accord provides for cooperation in higher education, research work, teaching foreign languages and encouraging cooperation between universities in the two countries as well as exchanging teaching staff and audio-visual information.

It will also facilitate cooperation in publications, exchange of radio and television programmes as well as organising of seminars exchanging visits and organising exhibitions.

Conveys Carlos' Message

LD011332 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1310 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 1 Apr (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, received this afternoon the Spanish minister of foreign affairs, Fernando Moran, who handed his highness a message from His Majesty King Juan Carlos Of Spain.

Talks Reviewed

LD012329 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Correspondent Danial Peral dispatch from Riyadh]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Fernando Moran this morning began his meetings with the Saudi Arabian authorities to strengthen existing economic agreements and to implement the new ones prepared during Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez's recent visit.

This morning Fernando Moran had a long meeting of an hour and a half with his Saudi counterpart, Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, which the Spanish Minister described as very interesting and useful, but about which he was nevertheless able to say very little. In this meeting they touched on the Middle East situation, the Iran-Iraq war and North Africa. The Saudis support the Moroccan theories on the Sahara conflict. It is possible that they may have reached agreement in this meeting on the possibility of Saudi finance for Jordan to purchase the Spanish Aviocar aircraft, according to our information. This operation, at several levels, could provide compensation for the U.S. rejection of the Spanish Aviocar.

They may also have talked about the coming visit to Riyadh by a Spanish technical delegation which will negotiate on the cancellation of the current debt owed by the Spanish state to Saudi Arabia of $150 million as well as on the simultaneous concession to the National Industry Institute of a credit worth $200 million under more favorable conditions.

Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal has expressed his confidence in the increase in the flow of Spanish trade to this country. Spanish Minister Fernando Moran is now at a meeting with Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, and in this meeting the invitation will be extended to the latter to make an official visit to Spain. It is also expected that the Saudi Foreign Minister will visit our country in the near future.

This trip by the Spanish foreign minister is not designed to offer explanations on the possible opening-up of diplomatic relations between Spain and Israel because there is no expectation that one of the points, amongst others, contemplated by Madrid for this step to be taken— the solution to the Palestinian problem —may be resolved in the short term. Fernando Moran:

[Begin recording] At this time I do not see anything happening to decisively remedy the Palestinian problem. There may be processes that favor a remedy in the future, even, for example, the Israeli elections, which are developing with a (?tendency), with an important (?call), in favor of peace as well as the experience of the futility, perhaps, of the intervention in Lebanon. All these may be positive factors [words indistinct] but I do not see one single factor for a remedy in the short term while on the other hand I do see that an external, but very important factor is the election process in the United States and this hampers the [word indistinct]. [end recording]

This afternoon Fernando Moran will be meeting with the Saudi ministers of commerce and of culture. During the meeting the bilateral cultural agreement will be signed. This is an agreement that sets out the framework for the opening up of contacts between the two countries in this field.

Attends Dinner Banquet

LD020202 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 APR 84

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, this evening gave a dinner banquet in honor of Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran, who is presently visiting the Kingdom. The dinner banquet was attended by Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources Ahmad Zaki Yamani and a number of senior officials.

Prince Sa'ud Stresses Similarity of Spanish Views

LD020240 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2100 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Riyadh 1 Apr (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, has emphasized the similarity of views between the Kingdom and Spain regarding major political issues in the region — particularly the Middle East and Palestinian question, the tense situation in Lebanon, and the Gulf war between Iraq and Iran.

His Royal Highness said that during his encounters with Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran, who is presently visiting the Kingdom, issues discussed at the summit level between His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzales during the latter's visit to the Kingdom recently had been followed up and further examined.

In a statement to SPA, His Royal Highness said: I have explained to the Spanish foreign minister the Kingdom's point of view concerning the important role that Spain could play in the European arena after joining the EC to increase and deepen understanding between the Arab and European worlds for the good of the two regions and their peoples. He said that the Saudi and Spanish sides had stressed the importance of consolidating and strengthening relations existing between the two friendly countries.

His Royal Highness added that there had been an exchange of views between the Kingdom and Spain about all issues interesting the two countries, whether at the level of bilateral relations or of Arab-European relations, especially Arab-Spanish relations, in addition to the main international issues.

Pakistani President Arrives for Pilgrimage

LD310855 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0710 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Jidda, 31 Mar (SPA) — Pakistani President, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, accompanied by his Foreign Minister Sahab Zada Yaqub Khan and a number of other responsible officials, arrived in the Kingdom this morning to perform the minor pilgrimage.

They were welcomed at the King 'Abd al-'Aziz airport by 'Abd ar-Rahman as-Sudayri, district commissioner of Jidda, Major General Salih as-Sudays, commander of the Western Region, Najm ath-Thaqib Khan, director of protocol, and members of the Pakistani Embassy.

Jordan's Al-Qasim Arrives From Kuwait

GF011720 Manama WAKH in English 1640 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Apr 1 (WAKH) — Head of the Jordanian Royal Court Marwan al-Qasim arrived here today from Kuwait on a brief visit to the UAE as part of tour of a number of states in the region.

Al-Qasim will deliver a message to President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from King Husayn of Jordan dealing with bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

He was greeted at the airport by Sa'id ad-Darmaki, chief of the Protocol Department, and Jordanian ambassador to the UAE Amir Sham'un. Later Chamberlain of UAE Presidential Court Shaykh Surur ibn Muhammad met with Mr. al-Qasim.

The meeting reviewed bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern.

UAE

GCC Secretary General Arrives in Abu Dhabi

GF011306 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1235 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 1 Apr (WAKH) — GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah arrived in Abu Dhabi this afternoon on a 2-day visit to the UAE during his tour of the GCC states. He was received by Sayf Sa'id Sa'id, director of the Administration of the GCC and Gulf countries at the Foreign Ministry, and a number of officials at the ministry.

PDRY

YSP Central Committee Cables Iraqi Communist Party

GF311947 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text of congratulatory cable sent by the YSP Central Committee to the Iraqi Communist Party on its 50th anniversary which is 31 March — read by announcer]

[Text] On the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the your struggling party, our YSP extends its comradely struggle congratulations to the leadership of the Iraqi Communist Party and to all its cadres and strugglers.

The celebration of this great occasion demonstrates the firm will and determination of the Iraqi communists and nationalists to continue the struggle in order to attain the noble goals of the fraternal Iraqi people — the goals of preserving national independence, social democracy, and social progress — so that the Iraqi people will continue to participate in the Arab liberation struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and reactionism.

The experience of the past 50 years of continuous struggle, during which the Iraqi Communist Party sacrificed its best party leaders, cadres, and strugglers as martyrs to defend principles and achieve noble goals for the Iraqi nationalist movement and the Arab liberation movement, set the standard for tackling the national and social tasks which lie ahead.

Our YSP holds high the developing struggle relations with your fraternal party. These relations have mushroomed on the bases of scientific socialism and protalitariat internationalism which serve to reinforce the joint struggle of our two fraternal peoples.

Mubarak Sends Message to Reagan on Mideast Peace

NC011522 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today sent a message to U.S. President Reagan regarding the Middle East situation and the need for concerted efforts in the coming phase to achieve progress toward a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Dr Usamah al-Baz, the first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Foreign Affairs, has delivered the message to the U.S. ambassador in Cairo.

Mubarak Attends Sekou Toure Funeral in Conakry

NC302112 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2042 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Conakry, 30 Mar (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak today attended the funeral of the late Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure in Conakry. The president was anxious to personally participate in the funeral of the late Guinean president out of recognition for his stands and Egypt's commitment toward the African states.

President Mubarak left Cairo early this morning, arriving in Conakry at noon. He performed Friday prayers in the Grand Mosque in the capital of Guinea before attending the funeral of the late president of Guinea.

After the funeral, President Mubarak held a series of meetings with those African leaders who had arrived in Conakry for the funeral of late President Sekou Toure.

Meets Bush, Others, Returns

NC310705 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Cairo, 31 Mar (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning returned to Cairo from Conakry. Mubarak and the delegation accompanying him had participated at the funeral of late Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure.

Dr Usamah al-Baz said President Mubarak went to Conakry to offer condolences to the Guinea people on the death of Ahmed Sekou Toure. Dr al-Baz said the 32-hour trip gave President Mubarak an opportunity to meet with African leaders and certain Arab leaders and public figures. Following the funeral, Mubarak met with Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, the Moroccan delegation headed by Moroccan Minister M'Hamed Boucetta, and the Iraqi vice president.

Dr al-Baz said President Mubarak's meetings at the airport conference hall enabled him to hold quick talks in which he reviewed several aspects of international issues, the situation in the Middle East, and bilateral relations.

Responding to a question on whether the issue of convening an African summit was touched on in the talks, Al-Baz said President Mubarak also met with the prime minister of Guinea, the host country of the African summit. Despite the funeral formalities, the meeting provided an opportunity to discuss important issues and ascertain whether there are obstacles in the way of the next summit.

On Mubarak's meeting with Yasir 'Arafat, Al-Baz said they discussed the Palestinian and Arab moves within the next few weeks, the possibility of convening the PNC, Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, and the activities the PLO intends to launch in light of the expected contacts with European countries and the PRC within the next few weeks.

On Mubarak's meeting with U.S. Vice President Bush, Al-Baz said the situation in the area and in Lebanon, the Iranian-Iraqi war, and ways to stimulate the peace efforts over the Palestinian issue were discussed. President Mubarak repeated his appreciation of the U.S. Administration's refusal to move the American Embassy to Jerusalem. Mubarak reiterated his warning to congressional circles against taking such an action. Al-Baz said as a result of these meetings, Egypt is now in the heart of the African moves, participating in every African action, and speaking on behalf of the countries of (?the continent).

Lebanese Magazine AS-SAYYAD Interviews Mubarak

NC011046 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] London, 1 Apr (MENA)— President Husni Mubarak has called on the Arabs to wake up and end their divisions to avoid further fragmentation of their common interests. During a comprehensive interview with the Lebanese magazine *AS-SAYYAD* in the first issue to be published in London next Wednesday after having been published in Beirut for the past 30 years, President Mubarak said that if the Arabs can abandon their provincial view of matters and sit together, they would then be capable of solving all problems.

In the interview President Mubarak stressed that Egypt will not accept any injustice to the Arab or Palestinian right. He said the Middle East issue cannot be solved at the expense of any country at all. The president called on all Palestinians from all groups to abandon dissension because it is neither in the interest of the Palestinian issue nor of the Arabs.

The president urged Israel — if it resorts to reason and logic — to completely withdraw its forces from Lebanon. He also called on Israel to sit down at the negotiating table to reach a solution to the Palestinian issue on the condition that the Palestinians speak for themselves. He said there must be coordination between the PLO and King Husayn so that the Jordanian delegation would include a Palestinian delegation as soon as negotiations begin, and so that the Palestinians may decide on what is in their interest. He explained that Israel's security, or the security of any country, cannot be achieved through the occupation of territories, but through understanding and talks conducted on the basis of good neighborliness.

President Mubarak strongly denied Israeli accusations that Egypt is violating Camp David, saying: We have not violated Camp David; it is Israel which violates the agreement daily and hopes we abrogate the agreement so that we lose our credibility before the world.

Regarding the Libyan air raid on Omdurman, the president stressed that Egypt has absolutely no interest in the eruption of a problem between two Arab countries. He described the Libyan raid on Omdurman as a disaster. He said that what has been said about the possibility that the raid was carried out by a rebel pilot scorns the people. He explained that the rebels do not possess an air force, a Tupolev-22, or an airbase. He stressed that Libya is the only state in the region which has that type of heavy bomber, each one of which weighs 80 tons.

Regarding the Iraqi-Iranian war, President Mubarak stressed that Egypt is neither a warmonger nor an advocate of war. He said: We are advocates of negotiations and mediation to end the war between Iraq and Iran. The president strongly denied that Egypt has shipped offensive weapons or forces to Iraq for use against Iran. He said it is not in Egypt's interest that the fighting between the two countries continues.

Regarding Egyptian-Soviet relations, President Mubarak said relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union will return soon. He said Egypt has no interest in being hostile to the Soviet Union, and that the Soviet Embassy in Cairo lacks nothing but the ambassador, as is the case with the Egyptian Embassy in Moscow. The president stressed that the Soviet Union is a great power whose role in the region cannot be ignored. He stressed the Soviet Union must play some role at some time.

Regarding the possibilities of convening a Geneva conference regarding peace in the Middle East, the president said: If it is not possible to give an impetus to the peace process through the existing initiatives, then there is no solution except in an international conference.

President Mubarak renewed Egypt's rejection of the policy of axes in the region. He said we are not seeking to establish axes at all. He said Egypt is in contact with all countries, and there are contacts with Syria. He added: There are no personal problems between myself and the Syrians. He expressed hope in reaching a unified agreement, but not on the basis of imposing anything on Egypt. He asserted that Egypt has commitments, that it respects its commitments before the entire world, and that it does not agree to abandon its commitments without reason.

The following is the text of *AS-SAYYAD* magazine's interview with President Mubarak:

AS-SAYYAD: Mr President, Egypt appears to be one of the architects of the peace policy in the Middle East under your era. However, in view of the difficulties facing peace, you seem able to combine all the proposed peace plans — the Reagan plan, the King Fahd plan, and the Egyptian-French plan. Which plan have you proposed to both the Americans and French, and have you seen any positive aspects?

President Mubarak: I want to say one thing: If intentions are sincere and good regarding peace, any plan will lead to it, because when we sit at the negotiating table without conditions, we will find a way for a comprehensive solution to the issue from all these plans. We agreed on the Reagan initiative in principle, but have some reservations regarding it. We believe that within the framework of implementation, amendments to certain points may take place during the discussions, because we will not accept any prejudice against Arab or Palestinian rights. Thus, discussions can bring us to a solution to the Palestinian issue.

AS-SAYYAD: Have you seen any positive aspects with the French or the Americans?

President Mubarak: I held talks with the French. The focus of our discussions centered on the French initiative. However, we agreed to leave it to the last moment. I talked with the Americans candidly and unequivocally over the issue of boosting the peace process. Everyone knows this is a U.S. election year. We appreciate that it is a difficult year. However, we urge the Americans not to freeze the Palestinian issue just because they are preoccupied with their elections, while Israel is continuing to build settlements. Israel is good at saying that we violate the Camp David agreements. We did not violate the Camp David accord, but Israel does every day. Israel hopes we will abrogate the Camp David accords so that we will lose our credibility before the world. We say: Let us sit at the negotiating table provided the Palestinians speak for themselves. All agreements provide that the Palestinians should speak for themselves. We are committed to the Rabat summit resolutions to the effect that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. From this premise, we maintain there must be coordination between the PLO and King Husayn so that a Palestinian delegation will be included within the Jordanian delegation in order to start the talks. Then the Palestinians themselves can decide on what they want and what is in their interests.

AS-SAYYAD: Your Excellency, let us discuss what is taking place in this part of the region. Following the air raid on Omdurman, Egypt and Sudan accused Libya of being behind the act. You announced your intention to enforce the joint defense agreement signed between Egypt and Sudan.

President Mubarak: It is a catastrophe and a problem. We, the Arabs, are brave only in fighting one another. I do not know what tempts us to fight one another, and what motivates certain countries to raise problems for others. These are all Arab countries and they [do this] so that we will forget the Palestinian and Lebanese issues. Is it in the interest of anyone for the Arabs to create a new problem among Egypt, Sudan, and Libya. I do not see how this can be in the interest of any of the three countries nor in the interest of any of the area's countries. I always maintain that we must attempt all peaceful means to solve these problems.

AS-SAYYAD: If all peaceful avenues were to be closed, would you send Egyptian forces to Sudan, or would the Egyptian forces be deployed on the borders with Libya?

President Mubarak: As a matter of fact, this issue must remain within the framework of military coordination. I cannot explain this to newspapers, but I can say there is a joint defense agreement between us and Sudan. There are even joint defense agreements among all Arab countries. Regrettably, however, the agreements among the Arab countries have collapsed. The Arabs are helping a non-Arab country against an Arab country. We have no interest in seeing a problem arise between a non-Arab and Arab country, or between two Arab countries. How can we talk about Arab countries, Arab fraternity, and Islamic fraternity, while the Arabs themselves destroy this. Egypt is concerned to avoid military solutions, but we must take precautions.

AS-SAYYAD: Mr President, what is your view of the incident involving the plane that attacked Omdurman? London radio said it is possible that a rebel pilot carried out the raid.

President Mubarak: That is ridiculous. Do the rebels have an air force? Even if they have one, do they have a Tupolev plane which is the size of a Boeing, and from where it will take off? Why should the rebels want to attack Omdurman radio? Moreover, do the rebels have Soviet-made Tupolev-22 planes? Libya is the only country in the area that has this type of aircraft. The Tupolev-22 plane took off from Al-Kufrah, flew to Omdurman, and bombed.

They talk about the rebels. I know about the rebels; I am a pilot and I know. They say there is a pilot among the rebels. In order to be able to fly this plane, a pilot needs to be trained on it for only 1 year. They talk about the rebels. This means the rebels are in power if they possess these bomber planes that do not reach from Al-Kufrah to Omdurman, but the bomber planes do reach. [sentence as received] I was a pilot of similar planes.

AS-SAYYAD: Do you yearn to fly?

President Mubarak: Yes, I yearn to fly but I have no time.

AS-SAYYAD: In your speech welcoming Greek President Konstandinos Karamanlis, we noticed you called on the world states to stop sending weapons to the two warring countries, Iraq and Iran. You said whoever continues to do this commits a crime against the two peoples. Has there been a change in Egypt's stand, which, as is known, supports Iraq militarily?

President Mubarak: I want to say that from the beginning Egypt has not supported the war between Iraq and Iran, which are two Islamic countries between which there was friendship. I hope we have a role to mediate between Iraq and Iran. I don't know the reason that caused Iran to adopt a certain stand toward us, although we do not help Iraq to the extent that allows offensive military operations to be launched against Iran. We support negotiations and mediation for solving problems. We have never given Iraq an offensive weapon with which to strike at Iran. This has never happened. Up to this moment, we have no military forces in Iraq, as some think. We have expertise in war. In wars we cannot send an incomplete force. If we want to send a force to Iraq, we must send a complete force consisting of a ground force and air force that works with it. This has not occurred because it is not in our interest that fighting should continue between Iraq and Iran. It is not in our interest that the resources of these countries go down the drain on destruction. We appeal to our brothers in Iran to sit down with the Iraqis. Iraq has affirmed its readiness to withdraw to the international borders and sit down at the negotiating table. We appeal to Iran and beg it to listen to this. We denounce any help to the two countries in the form of offensive weapons that harm the interests of the two countries. We are not supporters of war, and are not warmongers.

AS-SAYYAD: Why didn't Egypt participate in the Arab foreign ministers conference in Baghdad?

President Mubarak: Because we are not members, or rather, because our membership in the Arab League is suspended, although we do not consider our membership suspended because — according to the League Charter — Arab summit resolutions must be adopted unanimously. In the case of Egypt's suspension, some states expressed reservations, but in any case we don't want to impose ourselves on anyone.

AS-SAYYAD: A certain Arab foreign minister once said the Middle East issue will be solved at the expense of either Jordan or Lebanon. What is your view?

President Mubarak: If this is his view, then we say the issue will not be solved at the expense of any country at all. The current initiatives do not offer a solution to the issue at the expense of anyone. We say the Palestinian issue is the basis and one which has brought about the Lebanese issue. It can also lead to other problems. Therefore, we call for dealing with the root of the problem, namely, the Palestinian issue. This does not mean we should ignore the Lebanese problem. The Lebanese parties must sit together to solve their domestic problems, and we must accelerate the wheel of peace and solve the Palestinian issue without delay.

AS-SAYYAD: During your meeting with U.S. officials, did you feel they hold a divided opinion regarding Lebanon and the Middle East question?

President Mubarak: I did not sense divisions in the sense of divisions in opinion. We deal with the U.S. Government and convey to it our opinions and what we consider to be the best solutions. We urge the Americans to work for peace. We emphasize to them that the United States bears a great responsibility in finding a solution to the issue because it is not in our interests that the issue be frozen for a long time.

AS-SAYYAD: Some Western observers began describing southern Lebanon as "the northern bank of Israel." An Israeli Knesset member said: We claim at the beginning that we demand the land on the pretext that it is vital to our nation. Our demand on historical and religious grounds comes next, and we never leave. Do you believe the south will be returned to Lebanon one day?

President Mubarak: It must return to Lebanon one day. If Israel contemplates living in peace with its neighbors, then I do not believe it will hold on to south Lebanon. I have often heard them [the Israelis] say they have no ambitions in south Lebanon. Therefore, I urge them, and the Americans as well, that the Israeli forces withdraw completely from Lebanon. Regarding the Syrian presence, let this be dealt with as an Arab issue within the Arab framework. That would be better. By withdrawing, Israel will prove its goodwill and contribute to the peaceful solution of the question.

AS-SAYYAD: Now that the 17 May agreement between Lebanon and Israel has been abrogated, would Israel agree to an unconditional, total withdrawal from Lebanon?

President Mubarak: Why not if Israel were to resort to reason and logic? Israel's security cannot be ensured through the occupation of land. The security of Israel or that of any other state cannot be achieved through the occupation of land. Security can only be achieved through understanding, discussions, and dealings on the basis of goodneighborliness.

AS-SAYYAD: What is your stance regarding the deployment of UN forces in Beirut following the failure of the Multinational Force? If this is done, would you consider it a victory for the Soviet Union, which would again be involved in the core of the Middle East question and which would be a party to war or peace? Furthermore, will Egypt participate in these forces?

President Mubarak: We discussed with the Americans the possibility of sending UN forces to Lebanon. I believe they were convinced. I also discussed the issue with the U.S. President and his secretary of state. I believe they became convinced that the dispatch of UN forces to Lebanon is the best way to ease the tension in the area. As to whether Egypt will participate in these forces, I tell you that this is a premature issue. We do not want to involve ourselves in such an operation. We help to maintain our freedom of action.

AS-SAYYAD: Regarding the Soviet Union's role in the area, do you believe the presence of UN forces is a means for activating this role?

President Mubarak: The Soviet Union is a superpower which we cannot disregard. It is present in the area and we cannot say otherwise. The Soviet Union must play a role at some time. There are two superpowers in the world — the United States and Soviet Union — and we cannot absolutely disregard any of them.

AS-SAYYAD: Do you support the convocation of a Geneva conference to resolve the Middle East question?

President Mubarak: If no momentum can be given to the peace process through the existing initiatives which must be approved by the superpowers then there can be no solution other than through an international conference.

AS-SAYYAD: During the meeting you and King Husayn held with President Reagan, it was said you spoke about the questions of Lebanon and the West Bank. Did you discuss the fate of the Golan Heights?

President Mubarak: The Golan is an occupied territory. When we speak about Israel's withdrawal from the territory it occupies, then we mean the Golan, the West Bank, Gaza, and all territories which Israel occupies. However, we did not discuss the details of the Golan. The Syrians themselves must do this. We speak about the general principle — the withdrawal from the territory — and this naturally includes the Golan.

AS-SAYYAD: Certain people are saying that the victory of the Syrian solution in Lebanon will have consequences in the East, including, for example, the emergence of the Palestinian trend rejecting the peaceful solution and hesitancy of King Husayn in his attempt to hold talks with Israel over the future of the [West] Bank and [Gaza] Strip. What is your opinion?

President Mubarak: Syria and Lebanon are two neighboring countries. Syria has an interest in not having foreign forces in Lebanon, but the presence or non-presence of its forces there, as I have said, is a matter to be solved after the Israeli withdrawal and within an Arab framework.

AS-SAYYAD: Your Excellency is insisting on an Arab solution and Arab decision as you have said. But we know the situation of the Arab world. Where are the Arabs? Are they capable of sitting together?

President Mubarak: If the Arabs can abandon the regional view of matters and sit down together they would constitute a power that could solve all problems. But as long as they are divided, the problems and fragmentation will increase, and all the Arab countries will lose their interests and become easy prey for the great powers. This is why we are calling: Arabs, wake up and rid yourselves of this fragmentation which presently exists. This fragmentation will neither be in the interest of the Arab nation nor in the interest of any Arab country. Even if fragmentation is in its interest in the short term, in the long term it would lead to an ugly fragmentation of the Arab nation.

AS-SAYYAD: Some observers rule out the emergence of exciting results in the short term as a result of the renewed talks between the Jordanian monarch and PLO chairman. These observers add that these talks will not be easy. What is your opinion?

President Mubarak: Naturally they will not be easy. But we are hoping and exerting our utmost efforts so that a meeting between the PLO and King Husayn will take place so that we can bolster the negotiation process to solve the issue. We are doing all we can, and the other Arab countries must help and support this, because the existence and continuation of this situation will not serve the interests of a single Arab country, but will damage the interests of all Arab countries without exception.

AS-SAYYAD: Do you believe the visit by Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to Egypt has increased the sharpness of the Palestinian division? Also, where is the PLO heading, and what is your opinion of what certain Palestinian leaders are saying, in essence that it is necessary for them to return to Beirut now?

President Mubarak: If some have objected to Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Egypt, then to these I say: You are wrong: Egypt has supported the Palestinian cause from the beginning and continues to support it to this day. It was Egypt that lifted the Palestinian cause from an issue of refugees in Resolution No 242 to an issue of a people and a state. I believe that in all of this Egypt is showing the extent of its contribution to pushing the peace process and solving the Palestinian issue. The second point is the extent of the PLO's capability. The Arabs met in Rabat and the resolutions say that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. I do not believe there is an Arab country that disavows this. We continue to say that it is the sole and legitimate representative. Hence, I appeal to the Palestinian brothers from all groups to agree and abandon dissension. I also appeal to the Arab countries feeding this dissension, because to continue with these differences and this dissension is neither in the interest of the Arabs nor in the interest of the Palestinian cause. As to what some are saying about the need to return to Beirut, I say that if we find a solution to the Palestinian issue, then the Palestinians will not demand to go to Beirut or any other country. They will have their lands on which to live. This is why I say it is the cause; the Palestinian issue is the basic issue. If we can solve the Palestinian issue, then no one would need to go to any country. There they are now. Have they not left Beirut? They are dispersed everywhere, and have no land, identity, and entity. Can anyone accept this situation and then expect us to ask them to remain quiet? Of course not. All of us must help them so that they will have their entity. Then they will not need to live in Beirut, here, or in Tunisia.

AS-SAYYAD: Mr President, do you think that a policy of axes will emerge at this stage, for instance the axis of Egypt, Jordan, and the PLO versus that axis of Syria, Libya, and PDRY?

President Mubarak: We do not like the policy of axes. We are dealing with all countries, even with those that boycott us, in order to avert the policy of axes. The policy of axes is one of destruction, fragmentation, and devastation. Such a policy will not benefit the Arabs, but only the intruders of the Arab nation. Therefore, we reject the policy of axes, and absolutely do not seek to establish axes. We are in contact with all sides.

AS-SAYYAD: You support the legitimate Lebanese Government, that is, President Amin al-Jumayyil; you support the PLO under Yasir 'Arafat; you provide Iraq with weapons; and you adhere to the Camp David agreements. Certain Arabs do not back what you publicly support. Are there any common denominators that we are unaware of, that join you with these certain parties?

President Mubarak: As I have told you, we have contacts with all Arab countries.

AS-SAYYAD: What point have your contacts with Syria reached?

President Mubarak: No, I do not want to talk about this subject. Generally speaking, there are no personal problems between myself and the Syrians. I have friends there. I know President Hafiz al-Asad and Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, and there are no problems between us. Contacts occur and I hope we will reach a unified agreement although not on the basis of imposing any conditions on Egypt. We have commitments and we honor them before the whole world. We will not agree to abandon our commitments for no reason.

AS-SAYYAD: What about common denominators with other Arab countries. Are there Arab-Egyptian contacts?

President Mubarak: We are an Arab country and the interests of all Arabs are the same. Our fragmented action is dangerous. There are more than just these common denominators.

AS-SAYYAD: Do you believe Egypt's return to the Arab League will be easy if you take the fact that the African countries constituted the real weight for Egypt's return to the ICO into consideration. These countries held on to their membership in the OAU. How will Egypt return to the Arab League, and what kind of relations will you have with the African countries?

President Mubarak: Our relations with the African countries are very good.

AS-SAYYAD: How will you face the return of Israeli influence to the African countries?

President Mubarak: I refuse to put myself in a race. We are an African country and have good relations with 99 percent of the African countries. We also have mutual interests. Do not forget that Egypt has played a role with the African countries since Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir's era, and even during As-Sadat's era. I have recently visited certain African countries and all are my friends. I visited Zaire, which has relations with Israel, Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania, and Morocco, tha latter which is an Arab country and member of the Arab League. Thus, we have relations with all African countries, and I will not enter into a race with other countries or Israel in Africa or anywhere else. We have interests and good relations with the African countries to a far greater degree than Israel. As for the Arab League, in its present form, it calls for regret and can do nothing after Egypt's withdrawal. How often did the Arab League meet? It met in Fes and the conferees adopted the Fes initiative, and then after their departure from Fes they attacked the initiative. Do you want us to join an Arab League in this form?

AS-SAYYAD: What is required?

President Mubarak: What is required is that we follow reason and logic; refrain from the differences that have no value; sit down together; analyze our circumstances and discover where our interests lie; and be logical with history as Arab countries brought together by the area, religion, language, traditions, habits, and contacts. I must say that no one in the world will look for our interests if we do not sit down together and look for them ourselves.

AS-SAYYAD: An Egyptian has told me that you love the Arabs more than the Arabs love Egypt and the Egyptians.

President Mubarak: If they do not love Egypt, they are free to do so. I do not hate anyone. We have good relations with all of them. Also, we do not have the time to enter the heart of each one and ask him to love us and not hate us. But all the Arabs know Egypt well and I do not want to speak more about it.

AS-SAYYAD: Can you briefly tell us about your relations with Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil?

President Mubarak: I met him once in Delhi. He has contacted me several times. I see him as a nationalist who wants his country's interest above anything else. He agreed to the 17 May accord and then changed his mind. We are [word indistinct] because we agree to what Lebanon agrees to and chooses for itself. We do not want to interfere in the internal affairs of

Lebanon. Lebanon is free to abrogate the accord because it knows its interest and is more aware of it than we are. We support Lebanon in all that it sees is in its interests.

AS-SAYYAD: Let us talk about domestic Egypt. It has been reiterated that the true opposition to your rule in Egypt is not represented by the leftist parties but by the class of businessmen and capitalists. It has also been said that understanding between you and the National Party is not so good. How true are these sayings?

President Mubarak: This is the first time I have heard these words. I am in touch with all the people. I do not live in an ivory tower. There are no differences between me and the National Party. There are also no differences between me and the opposition parties. How could there be differences with the National Party when I am its leader? As it is the party of the majority, you will find there are various opinions but absolutely no real differences.

AS-SAYYAD: As to the business class?

President Mubarak: This is the first time I have heard that a difference exists between me and them, unless you mean the exploiters, which is another subject. I am against exploitation. I am also frank and open. A businessman who has a problem is welcome, but there is no place for a businessman who wants to exploit us and we will not accept him. I am not alone in this, but all Egyptians reject it. No one who loves his country will accept another one coming and exploiting Egypt because Egypt is not my possession; it belongs to every Egyptian living on this soil.

AS-SAYYAD: Mr President, do you believe that the rapprochement between the Eastern and Western blocs, which Britain is seeking to realize in coordination with the United States, will have a positive effect on the Middle East question, or will priority be given to other issues?

President Mubarak: Even their other issues are very important ones. Both the Pershing and cruise missiles affect the Middle East area because if a war were to break out, there would be no Middle East nor Near East. All blocs and regions would hit each other. The operation would result in total destruction. A rapprochement between the two superpowers would also ease the tension in the Middle East.

AS-SAYYAD: During his speech Chernenko said: We support the peaceful solution of all the world's problems and issues. He added: We are prepared to cooperate practically with all states in order to ease the tension. Are we heading toward a special era and is Egypt heading toward a special era with the Soviet Union?

President Mubarak: I sincerely said and I even told the Americans that the Soviet Union is a superpower and we have no interest in antagonizing it. This does not prevent me from having special relations with the United States and ordinary relations with the Soviet Union. Relations with the Soviet Union will shortly be restored to normal, God willing. The Soviet Embassy here lacks nothing more than the ambassador. I have my embassy there and it also lacks nothing other than the ambassador. Let us take a state like India. It has special relations with the Soviet Union and ordinary relations with the United States. We are a nonaligned state and follow the same line.

AS-SAYYAD: Regarding the world, is it heading toward a special era — an era of quiet?

President Mubarak: I pray to God it is so. I cannot predict the future, but I pray God will help the superpowers find a peaceful solution to all problems.

AS-SAYYAD: Mr President, at the end of the interview, do you wish to add anything else?

President Mubarak: I do not want to add anything to my call to the Arabs to wake up from their slumber, because otherwise our interests will be further fragmented and we will never achieve our goals. The more our differences, the more the interference in our affairs, and the easier our fragmentation, the more Arab rights will be lost.

Mubarak Sends Message to India's Gandhi

NC310850 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 31 Mar (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has sent a message to Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to sound out her views and proposals on ending the Iranian-Iraqi war, so that there will be a crystallized stand when she arrives in Egypt. This was stated by Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the Presidential Office for Political Affairs. He said President Mubarak handed the message to Indian Ambassador Gonslaves, who will deliver it to Indira Gandhi on 2 April.

Gandhi To Visit Mid-April

NC301453 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA) — Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi is expected to visit Cairo during the second week of April as part of her tour of a number of the region's states. The tour falls within the framework of moves by the Nonaligned Movement in view of the fact that India is the Movement's current chairman. The moves are aimed at exerting efforts to end the Iraqi-Iranian war, and giving impetus to the Palestinian question and peace in the area.

It is worth noting that President Husni Mubarak recently called for the convocation of an urgent meeting of the nonaligned foreign ministers to work in a prompt and positive manner to end the Iraqi- Iranian war, and to confront the latest developments in the Middle East.

Moreover, Egypt notified Indira Gandhi that it has specific proposals to submit to a conference to be held as soon as possible at the nonaligned foreign ministers' level for the sake of ending the bloodshed between Iraq and Iran, and finding a peaceful solution without preconditions to the conflict that would be acceptable to both sides. Furthermore, this was among the most important topics Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, discussed during his recent visit to Baghdad.

'Ali also held contacts in this regard with certain nonaligned states to activate nonaligned efforts to halt the Gulf war.

Cypriot Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC011328 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Cairo, 1 Apr (MENA) — Cypriot Foreign Minister Yeoryios Iakovou arrived in Cairo today from Cyprus on a 3-day visit to Egypt. He was met at the airport by Assistant Foreign Minister 'Imran ash-Shafi'i and members of the section looking after Cypriot interests in Cairo.

Egyptian-Cypriot talks are due to begin tomorrow at the Foreign Ministry under the chairmanship of Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Cypriot Foreign Minister Iakovou.

It was learned that the talks will deal in detail with Egyptian-Cypriot relations, and review international questions of interest to the two countries, including the Middle East question, the Mediterranean states' issues, and the Iraqi-Iranian war.

Cypriot sources have said the Cypriot foreign minister is carrying a message to President Husni Mubarak from Cypriot President Spiros Kiprianou.

Foreign and Cypriot diplomatic sources expect the visit of the Cypriot foreign minister to Cairo to result in important steps within the framework of Egyptian-Cypriot relations which have been frozen since the assassination of martyr Yusuf as-Siba'i, AAPSO secretary general, and former minister of culture in Cyprus in 1978.

Dr Butrus Ghali today paid a courtesy visit to the Cypriot guest, during which they reviewed questions of interest to the two countries.

Agreement To Restore Relations

NC021117 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1053 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] Cairo, 2 Apr (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received before noon today Cypriot Foreign Affairs Minister Yeoryios Iakovou, who is currently visiting Cairo. The meeting was attended by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

The Cypriot minister stated after the meeting that it has been decided in principle to restore diplomatic relations between Egypt and Cyprus in the very near future. He expressed his gratitude for President Mubarak's understanding by supporting the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The Cypriot foreign minister said he handed President Mubarak a personal message from Cypriot President Spiros Kiprianou, and that he acquainted him with the latest developments in the Cyprus issue. Iakovou added that President Mubarak gave him a verbal message for the Cypriot president. He expressed his pleasure over the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries, which reflects the close ties between the Egyptian and Cypriot peoples.

Answering a question on whether there will be a simultaneous declaration in Cyprus and Egypt of the resumption of relations, the Cypriot foreign minister said: We are declaring it now with my colleague Dr Butrus Ghali.

Answering a question on the calmness and prosperity that the resumption of relations between the two countries will bring, he said: I believe the resumption of relations will help not only Cyprus and Egypt, but will also contribute to the restoration of calm to the area.

As to whether the presidents of Egypt and Cyprus will exchange visits, the Cypriot minister said: We have discussed that, but with the resumption of relations, all the traditional relations will return to their normal course. Replying to a question on whether the resumption of relations will help in solving the Cypriot conflict, he said it will greatly contribute to that.

Albanian Agriculture Minister Departs 2 Apr

NC020825 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 2 Apr (MENA) — Mrs Themie Thomai, Albanian minister of agriculture, and her accompanying delegation today left Cairo after a 6-day visit to Egypt, during which she met with President Husni Mubarak.

Parliamentary Delegation Leaves for Geneva 1 Apr

NC010855 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Cairo, 1 Apr (MENA) — People's Assembly Speaker Dr Kamil Layla left Cairo this morning for Geneva at the head of a parliamentary delegation to take part in the 6-day IPU meetings due to start on Monday. The delegation includes: Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah, chairman of the Assembly's Foreign Relations Committee; NDP Organization Secretary Kamal Ash-Shadhili; and members Dr Farghandah Hasan and Dr Muhammad ad-Dakruri.

Socialist Liberal Party Nominates Deputy Leader

NC011600 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1523 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Cairo, 1 Apr (MENA) — The Socialist Liberal Party has nominated Riyad Mu'awwad, the party's under secretary for foreign relations and member of the Consultative Council, to assume the post of deputy leader of the party replacing Salah ar-Rifa'i who recently resigned from his post in protest against certain financial and administrative actions in the party.

Mu'awwad has said the party's Permanent Council will discuss the nomination at its meeting this coming Wednesday and will approve it as he is the only candidate.

Trial of Armed Communist Organization Begins

NC011726 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1614 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text]Cairo, 1 Apr (MENA)—The Higher State Security Court resumed session today, under councillor 'Abd as-Salam Hamid, to try the defendants in the first case involving an armed communist organization. Among the sixteen defendants, three remain fugitives. Four defendants were not present at the session, having remained in jail. The court listened to several prosecution witnesses who emphasized that the defendants were in possession of leaflets and weapons upon their arrest. The court decided to resume session after tomorrow, Tuesday, to hear the defense and bring those defendants who did not attend today.

Western Area Forces Carry Out Maneuvers

NC011353 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Cairo, 1 Apr (MENA) — The Western Military Area forces today are continuing their annual maneuvers which began yesterday, and in which land, air, naval, and air defense forces are taking part. The maneuvers will last several days.

AL-AKHBAR Criticizes Calls To Move U.S. Embassy

NC020628 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 2 Apr 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "A Return to the Jerusalem Issue and U.S. Interests in the Area," *AL-AKHBAR* writes: We do not know how long U.S. interests will remain the only thing which U.S. political leaders think about. Congress continues to harp on the call to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.-Feverish statements from Walter Mondale and Gary Hart, the two Democratic Party candidates for the U.S. presidential election, continue to be issued without regard for the entire spectrum of U.S. interests, not only in the Arab countries but in the entire Islamic world.

AL-AKHBAR asks: Don't U.S. officials realize the seriousness of taking such a step, that might provoke 1 billion Muslims in 60 Islamic countries? Or is it an appeasement for Jewish pressure groups that represent a single state, Israel?

Or are there perhaps U.S. interests that outweigh all its vital interests in the Islamic countries?

The paper adds: Even if the two Democratic presidential candidates are raising this subject to gain the Jewish vote, we know of no reason for Congress to raise this issue, completely ignoring the feelings of all Arabs and Muslims, and even disregarding all U.S. interests in this part of the world.

AL-AKHBAR concludes by saying that U.S. policy in the Middle East has received many blows. It certainly cannot bear another blow or another failure.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan has thus far shown a reasonable stand of not responding to the pressures of Congress. We hope he will remain firm in this stand until the end.

President Calls U.S. Policy 'Hypocritical'

JN311948 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Paris, 31 Mar (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has emphasized that the Iranians had mutilated the bodies of the Iraqi POW's during the recent battles. He added that this was done because the Iraqi soldiers refused to curse their government and that they were later executed.

In an interview published by the French magazine *LE FIGARO* today, the president stressed that the Iranians refused to furnish the Red Cross with the names of the POW's and closed the Red Cross office in Tehran.

They refused and are still refusing any visits by the international organizations as well as rejecting all the UN resolutions. He added that Iran is ignoring the international community and is making fun of humanity.

President Saddam Husayn said he was surprised to see a superpower like the United States adopt a decision supporting Iranian allegations on Iraq's use of chemical weapons without any investigation into the matter. The president stressed that the U.S. policy has no fixed lines and is not based on tangible facts. It is, moreover, a hypocritical policy that is trying to defend its interests in the region, particularly its interests toward Khomeyni. The president said: The Americans have played an opportunist game toward Iran by supporting the shah's corrupt regime against the Iranian people. They then maneuvered in order to find a successor for the shah. They found the replacement in the person of Khomeyni and his extremist religious gang.

The president stressed that Iraq supports the unity of Lebanon and non-interference in its internal affairs, and supports giving the Lebanese a chance to solve their problems and determine their destiny by themselves. He added that Lebanon should remain part of the Arab nation.

President Saddam Husayn described the Syrian policy in Lebanon as opportunist and unprincipled. He emphasized that this policy was Israel's pretext to occupy Lebanon. He asserted that the Zionists must leave Lebanon and that the Syrians, too, must leave. The president emphasized that the PLO represents the overwhelming majority of the Palestinian people and that it is the only body that is capable of representing them.

Replying to a question on the problems of the Libyan regime's leader, President Saddam Husayn said: The Arab leaders who are not seriously working for the interests of the Arab world are only facilitating the game of the opponent forces that have ambitions against the Arab interests. It is obvious to all that Al-Qadhdhafi has harmed the Arab nation, and is still inflicting harm on it.

At the end of the interview, President Saddam Husayn hoped that the Iranian people would determine their destiny themselves. He added that a trend against the continuation of the war has now begun to emerge within the ranks of the Iranian politicaians. However, he said, the main factor for the termination of war is Iraqi resistance and steadfastness.

Information Minister Interviewed on War

NC300534 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA) — Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nasif Jasim has affirmed that Egypt remains the spirit of the Arab nation through its long history, cultural depth, human presence, and contributions to the fateful battles of the Arab nation.

In an interview to be published by *AKHBAR AL-YAWM* tomorrow, Saturday, the Iraqi minister described Egypt's position toward Iraq today as fair, honorable, and principled. He said: We appreciate President Mubarak's courageous stand.

Referring to the situation in Iraq, Jasim affirmed that the situation is extremely reassuring. He added that the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command has strategic reserves that it has not used yet. In all the battles waged by Iraq so far, only one-tenth of its Army has been used. The remaining troops are undergoing training, waiting to confront the waves of Iranians in order to annihilate them.

The Iraqi information minister affirmed that his country is maintaining a blockade on Khark Island. He warned that any ship proceeding to the area will be hit immediately.

Regarding the situation on Majnun Island, he said Iranian forces are present on a small part of it. They are surrounded by water and are within striking range of Iraqi aircraft, rockets, and artillery. He added that the question of the departure of the Iranians from this area is in Iraq's hands, and they will depart very soon.

The Iraqi information minister denied that his country had used chemical weapons in the Gulf war. He attacked the United States in this regard, pointing out that by denouncing Iraq for using poison gas — a weapon that Iraq did not use — the United States wanted to put out a feeler to find out whether Iran would reestablish ties with it so as to extend U.S. interests into Iran. The Iraqi information minister described Iran's conditions for negotiations as absurd. He said there are bases to solve the conflict by peaceful means and through negotiations. Foremost of these bases are acknowledging the side which started the war and which was the cause for its continuation all this time, imposing the necessary international sanctions on it, and restoring rights in accordance with international agreements.

Armed Forces General Command Issues Communiques

No 1,420 - 30 March

JN301757 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,420 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 30 March 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With more strength, courage, and capability, the sons of great Iraq are continuing their brave operations against the rancorous

Khomeyniite regime's forces. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our brave pilots today raided enemy positions and concentration centers located opposite our forward units in the east of Basra and Maysan operational sectors. They scored very effective hits; caused heavy damage to enemy personnel, weapons, and equipment; and set several enemy positions and equipment on fire. Smoke screened the raided sites. Our valiant pilots returned with their planes safely to base, praise be to God. Our planes today carried out 143 combat missions.

2. Our forward units sighted enemy concentrations opposite our positions in the east of Basra operational sector, killing 15, wounding several soldiers, and destroying 2 vehicles and 1 hardware stockpile.

3. Our valiant Army helicopter gunships today carried out successful raids on enemy positions and concentrations opposite our forward units in the east of Basra and Maysan operational sectors scoring direct and effective hits. The raids killed or wounded several enemy soldiers. All our helicopter gunships returned safely to base, praise be to God. Our gunships today carried out 19 combat missions.

4. Using various weapons, our forward units pounded enemy positions and troop assembly points opposite our units in the Maysan operational sector scoring direct and effective hits.

5. At 0857 today, six enemy warplanes infiltrated our international border. Two of these planes bombed civilian quarters in Rawanduz, and the other four bombed civilian quarters in 'Ali al-Gharbi. Our antiaircraft weapons repelled these planes and forced them to flee. Eight civilians were martyred, 17 others were wounded, 5 houses were destroyed, and 10 houses and 20 shops were damaged in the enemy raid on Rawanduz. One civilian was martyred, 3 others were wounded, and 4 houses and 1 civilian car were damaged in the raid on 'Ali al-Gharbi. Using heavy artillery, the criminal rulers of Iran today pursued their shelling of Basra, Khanaqin, Mandali, and Ash-Shihabi. The shelling wounded 2 civilians and damaged 1 house and 3 civilian cars in Basra; wounded 1 civilian, destroyed 2 houses, and damaged another house in Khanaqin; and damaged several civilian installations in Mandali and Ash-Shihabi.

[Signed]The Armed Forces General Command, 30 March 1984

No 1,421 - 31 March

JN311748 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,421 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 31 March 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

In defense of the territory of great Iraq and the nation's honor, our valiant Armed Forces are continuing to deal blows to the forces of the suspect Khomeyniite regime. The results of the activities carried out yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Today, our bold Air Force aircraft launched violent attacks on the enemy units and concentrations in the areas opposite our units' positions east of Basra, inflicting massive losses on enemy personnel, weapons, and equipment; damaging several vehicles; and hitting an air defense network.

The brave Air Force pilots today carried out daring and effective raids on the enemy units deep inside its territory in the central sector of the battlefield, and on its camps and concentrations in the Gilan-e Gharb and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab areas, scoring effective hits.

All our fighter planes returned safely to base, praise be to God. They carried out 185 combat missions today.

2. An enemy group tried to approach the positions of one of our forward units in the northern sector of the battlefield. Our forces confronted the enemy troops with all weapons and forced them to retreat after killing or wounding several of them.

3. Our forward units opened fire from all types of weapons on the enemy positions and units opposite our positions east of Basra, killing six, wounding others, and destroying one enemy command post, one armored personnel carrier, one vehicle, one 106-mm gun, three hardware stockpiles, and one observation post.

4. Our helicopter gunships today carried out successful combat missions against the enemy units and troop concentrations in the areas opposite our forward units' positions east of Basra, killing or wounding a number of enemy troops. All our daring helicopters returned safely, praise be to God. They carried out 17 combat missions today.

5. One of our forward units opened fire from various weapons on an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the Maysan sector, inflicting losses in men and equipment and completely destorying three infantry positions.

6. Seven were killed and one gun was destroyed in the central sector of the battlefield.

7. Two vehicles and three infantry positions were destroyed in the east Tigris operational area.

8. The enemy shelled Basra, Khanaqin, Mandali, Ash-Shihabi, and their envorons with heavy artillery yesterday evening and today.

The savage enemy shelling wounded five civilians — including one woman — and damaged one house, one shop, and one civilian car in Basra; wounded one civilian, destroyed one house, and damaged four other houses and two civilian cars in Khanaqin; destroyed three houses and damaged one hospital in Mandali; and destroyed four houses in Ash-Shihabi.

[Signed]The Armed Forces General Command, 31 March 1984

No 1,422 - 1 April

JN011644 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1605 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Communique No 1,422 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 1 April 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces continue their activities in the operations sectors and continue their heroic confrontation of the forces of the clique of evil, rancor, and aggression which is ruling in Iran. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Daring aircraft formations belonging to our able Air Force today raided enemy troop concentrations and positions in the areas opposite our forward units' positions in the eastern Basra and Maysan operations sectors, as well as important military targets deep inside enemy territory in the central sector of the battlefield. They inflicted huge losses on the enemy, destroying several pieces of enemy equipment, weapons, and various types of military hardware. All of our aircraft returned safely and triumphantly to base, praise be to God. Our aircraft carried out 142 combat missions today.

2. Our helicopter gunships belonging to the Army's Air Force today attacked enemy positions and troop concentrations in the eastern Basra, eastern Tigris, and Maysan operational sectors, scoring direct and effective hits and inflicting losses of life and equipment on the enemy. All of our helicopter gunships returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Several enemy elements were sighted opposite one of our forward unit's positions east of Basra. Our unit pounded them with all types of weapons, killing four, wounding others, and destroying two heavy caliber guns. The gun crews were hit.

4. Our forward units sighted several enemy elements opposite their positions in the northern sector of the battlefield and shelled them. Many were either killed or wounded, and one excavator and two vehicles were destroyed.

5. Six infantry positions and one observation post were destroyed in the eastern Tigris operation sector.

6. One was killed and one antiaircraft gun position was destroyed in the central sector of the battlefield.

7. The criminal Iranian regime today shelled Basra and Khanaqin with heavy artillery. One civilian was wounded and one house was damaged in Basra, and six houses were damaged in Khanaqin.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 1 April 1984.

Ramadan, Algeria's Messaadia Discuss Gulf Issues

JN301423 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1236 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Mar (INA) — Official talks took place here last night between Iraq and Algeria. The Iraqi side was headed by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, and the Algerian side by Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the FLN Political Bureau and official in charge of the Central Committee's permanent secretariat in Algeria.

The talks reviewed bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries and the means of developing and expanding these relations in all fields for their mutual benefit and in the interest of the Arab nation. The talks also reviewed the current Arab situation and stressed the importance of exerting sincere Arab efforts to unify and strengthen the Arab ranks as the only effective means to foil the plots against the Arab nation in the present and the future. Ramadan emphasized during these talks the importance of bilateral meetings between the officials of both fraternal countries at different levels to seriously discuss the consolidation of relations between them as well as the strengthening of Arab ranks.

Ramadan reviewed the Iraqi-Iranian conflict from its political, economic, and military aspects and the Arab and international positions on this conflict. He also referred to Iraq's sincere efforts to end the fighting by responding to all UN resolutions and sincerely cooperating with the various peace efforts in this regard. Ramadan also discussed the Iraqi economy under war conditions. He said that the process of development, reconstruction, and the completion of projects is continuing and that it is matched by Iraq's complete and constant readiness to make every sacrifice in defense of their beloved homeland. Ramadan referred to the Iranian regime's repeated aggressions on Iraq since the latter withdrew its armed forces to its international border on 20 June 1982. This aggression, he said, confirms the Iranian regime's expansionist ambitions against Iraq and the Arab nation. Ramadan also referred to the losses sustained by that regime at the hands of the Iraqi Armed Forces. Ramadan also referred to the Libyan and Syrian regimes' stand in joining forces with the Iranian regime and encouraging it to continue the war against Iraq. He also mentioned the damaging effect of this war on the Arab region and international interests.

Mohamed Cherif Messaadia expressed his pleasure in visiting Iraq and his admiration for the great and comprehensive development taking place in Iraq despite the war circumstances. He said that Algeria will not stop its efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war. The escalation of this war and the failure to end it by peaceful means entails great dangers to the Arab region, he added. Messaadia affirmed that Algeria rejects the policy of aggression against Arab territories.

The talks were attened on the Iraqi side by: Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, Ba'th Party National Command member and deputy officer in charge of the party's Cultural and Information Bureau; 'Abd al-Fattah Muhammad Amin, deputy officer in charge of foreign relations in the Ba'th Party National Command; 'Ismat Kittani, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry; a member of the Foreign Relations Bureau of the Party's National Command; the chief editor of the newspaper *ATH-THAWRAH*; and the director of the press office of the first deputy prime minister.

The talks were attended on the Algerian side by: Bechir Khaldoun, member of the FLN Central Committee and permanent secretariat and officer in chief of culture and information; Sadiq Zuwaytuni, member of the FLN Central Committee and the Foreign Relations Committee; Dr Al-'Arabi az-Zubayri, member of the Central Committee and permanent secretariat; the Algerian ambassador in Baghdad; a member of the permanent secretariat of the Central Committee; and the director of the Algerian paper *AL-MUJAHID*.

Messaadia Delegation Departs

JN300704 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the PLN Political Bureau and official in charge of the Central Committee's permanent secretariat in Algeria, left Baghdad this afternoon with his delegation after a 2-day visit to Iraq. During this visit, Messaadia held talks with Iraqi officials on bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries and the means of developing them in all fields. The talks also dealt with the developments of the Iraq-Iran war, the Arab situation, and the international situation in general.

The Algerian official was seen off at the airport by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister; 'Ismat Kittani, under secretary of foreign affairs; a number of Foreign Ministry officials; and the Algerian ambassador in Baghdad.

Tariq 'Aziz Returns From Tunis; Makes Statement

JN311701 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Mar (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned here today after leading the Iraqi delegation to the 81st session of the Arab League Council, which concluded its meeting in Tunis this evening.

In a statement to INA, Tariq 'Aziz described the Arab League Council's meeting as important and distinguished because it was the first meeting on the ministerial level during the Council's ordinary session, and because it was held directly after the Arab foreign ministers' emergency meeting, which was held in Baghdad on the 14th of this month to discuss the Iranian aggression on Iraq.

He said that during this meeting, Chedli Klibi was reelected Arab League secretary general, a matter which will help the Arab League institutions to continue their activity. He added that an important resolution was adopted calling for another emergency meeting on the foreign ministers level to discuss affairs pertaining to the Arab summit, whose date has been postponed.

In response to an INA question on the results of the follow-up committee formed by the Arab foreign ministers' emergency meeting in Baghdad regarding the Iranian aggression on Iraq, Tariq 'Aziz said: The committee's meeting was marked by seriousness and by a sincere desire to adopt important measures to confront aggression and achieve a just peace. He added that the committee has approved a plan for its work and agreed to a working program for the next few weeks, and that it will reconvene in mid-May this year.

It is noteworthy that the committee is made up of the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Morocco, Tunisia, YAR, and Iraq, in addition to the Arab League secretary general.

uf headlineKing Husayn's Aqaba Press Conference
JN302147 Amman Television Service in English 2012 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Press conference held by King Husayn at Royal Palace in Aqaba on 30 March 1984 attended by reporters who covered Queen Elizabeth's visit to Jordan — videotaped]

[Text] [Husayn] In any event, I would like to sieze this opportunity to welcome you all once again amongst us here in Jordan and to hope that your stay has been a pleasant one and that you felt at home and amongst your friends, which is our dearest wish.

As for the occasion that has brought us all together, I would like to say once again that on behalf of my Jordanian family, the government and the people of Jordan, myself, Nur, and members of my family, this has been a visit that we have looked forward to for a very long period of time. It is an honor and a privilege for us all to welcome Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip, and the accompanying delegation in Jordan. It is not unusual for us to have felt that way and it does not bear explaining in ways other than the fact that we are proud of a very long association and friendship that has exisited between our families, our countries, and our nations over many, many years.

Her majesty has a very special place in our hearts. We have the highest respect for her, admiration, and affection. Altogether it has been an enormous pleasure for us to have had this visit take place and for the opportunity it presented to one and all amongst us during the short period of the visit to show here what we felt and to show here some of the aspects of life in this country, be is in terms of the past or the present.

As you know, this country is a country that has so many treasures, treasures that we have always felt do not belong to us alone, but to the world. Every civilization throughout [history] has left us something or another, somewhere or another in this country that we are proud to share with many of our friends whenever they are able to visit us. Beyond that, it was obviously important for us also to share with our great friends an opportunity to see some of modern Jordan —the people, their accomplishments, their hopes, and aspirations — for it is an old yet a young country in many respects, and it owes so much and will continue to do so, to its people, their courage, their determination to make of themselves a good example to others in this entire area and to overcome all obstacles and challenges.

I believe that this visit is a milestone in terms of relations that happily exist between us, and it definitely would enhance and further cement the relations that exist between us as they develop in many fields and many areas as they have done in the past and as they will do in the times ahead. In any event, I welcome you once again and hope that we will have many an occasion in the future of meeting, and if there is anything I can do or say or respond to, I will be more than happy to do so within the minutes ahead.

[Question] Your Majesty, What role do you believe Britain can play in solving the Middle East problem?

[Husayn] Britain can, based on a proper understanding of the problems of this area that it shares with many of our friends in Europe and the world, make a contribution towards the establishment of a just and durable peace in this area. I believe that the problems that confront us here, in terms of the dangers they cause are not ones that affect us only — all people who live in this area — but have an impact on the rest of the world and, in particular, Europe.

And if one were to be more accurate, probably to the whole cause of world peace. It is an important area in terms of its location. It overlooks oceans and seas and routes of communications. I links two continents. It has sources of energy within it. It is a great tragedy that so far has not been resolved which is the root cause of instability in this entire area — the Israeli leadership. And I believe that when our friends understand what is happening they can contribute towards creating better understanding of the problems and challenges and dangers. And the combined moral weight of this will obviously have an effect in terms of hopefully averting disaster and maybe enabling all to move towards an objective which is one to which we are committed; to establish just and durable peace in the Middle East.

[Question] During the visit, our foreign minister, Al-Masri, had talks with the British minister. Can you tell us if any progress was there on supplies of arms for your Army, anything like that?

[Husayn] I do not think that the subject in particular was raised.

[Question] The missiles to replace the Stinger?

[Husayn] We will be looking at all possible alternates but this subject in particular was not, to my knowledge, raised during this meeting.

[Question] Your Majesty, you have recently, in one or two newspaper and magazine interviews, expressed misgivings about the present United States policy in this area. Would you [word indistinct] to amplify [words indistinct]?

[Husayn] I though that I had amplified enough over that subject in the recent past, nor was it a criticism of an individual or the administration. I have the highest respect for President Reagan. I am proud to consider him a personal friend. I believe he is a man of principles and a man of courage and vision. On the other hand, I was addressing myself to a situation that had developed over a number of years to the point where I felt that it appears to be the case, the American scene has been violated by the influence of the Israeli lobby and Israel in the many forms which that takes. That was important for us to address ourselves to the American people and bring these realities to at least create a possible debate because, at this very crucial point in time in the face of the challenges and the problems that confront us all, all our attempts to make progress towards the establishment of peace are fairly obvious that we cannot deal with the United States as an ally of Israel or as a mediator. [as heard]

The United States has a role that it can play as a superpower that respects its commitments and which is fair. We cannot even negotiate on principles. You probably will understand this more than any in this world. Well, the whole subject of negotiations was brought up time and again and we say that the principle of the inadvisibility of the acquisition of territory by war is not negotiable. The process is one when it comes of negotiating the implementation of such a principle. The Falklands — the issue there is an example. But unfortunately, in the minds of so many,the whole issue has become completely unclear.

Since 1967, we partook in formulating UN Security Council Resolution 242, and it was very, very clear in terms of what it meant [words indistinct] which I have just mentioned: total withdrawal for total peace. Israel now is in occupation of all of Palestine, Syrian territories, southern Lebanon, and (?has) greeds in part of southern Jordan. And we are called upon to negotiate. We have tried everything possible over the years. Negotiate what? There attitude is what is yours is ours, and we will negotiate beyond that, and this is something that is simply impossible to come to terms with.

On the other hand, Israel receives all the help and all the support that it needs and requires. You take the Reagan initiative. It would have been very easy for me, 2 days or so after the Israeli Government rejected it outright, to say that if this is the case then that's it, we can't move. We kept it alive all this time. We tried our very best to see what bridges we could create between it and the Fes Arab summit decisions and resolutions. I traveled to the five capitals of the permanent members of the Security Council. I found everywhere that all repeat that the way to a solution is through the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. If this is the case, then why not have a combined effort to try to resolve this problem?

Settlement activities — They increased and intensifed as almost a response to the Reagan initiative of September 1982. These settlements are built to change the land, its shape, its demography. Everyone, every day that passes creates new obstacles in the path of an eventual peace. And it all comes through American material resources, military support to Israel, and moral support. And I believe that all of you are aware of the fact that there was an American veto on the Jordanian resolutions on settlements earlier on. And we have all seen how it began at some point by being very clearly an issue where these settlements were considered illegal to the point now, where they are an impediment or whatever. And we don't see that this is getting us anywhere. So a combination of all these facts and elements really made me feel that there was not way except to present the case as frankly and candidly as I could.

One area, also, that has been very distressing is that which affects people on the occupied territories that have endured this occupation for over 17 years now: the fact that they are denied their rights. They cannot express themselves. They were considered the silent majority. They are the people who really matter. Recently, they began to move to try to urge us here in Jordan and the PLO to work together to secure as early as possible an end to their tragedy and the establishment of peace. Again we have tried our best to see what could be done to enable them to express themselves and to partake in any Palestinian meetings that will probably be held in the future, because they will make the difference as to the direction and shaping of thinking. They are the people that matter. But again, there is a very negative attitude towards that. We couldn't get anywhere with the settlements problem, and gradually the whole situation is reaching a very dangerous point.

Someone asked about, one of our friends asked about Stinger. That was only one of the recent problems that we faced. Stinger, as you well know, is a short-range defensive weapon to be used against attacking aircraft at low level. It is nothing in comparison with what Israel is receiving in terms of the very sophisticated technology, in addition to weapons and arms. It is a legitimate requirement. We have been talking for almost 3years. Well, there was an uproar over the whole subject and we felt that even had I not spoken it would have probably not had much of a chance of passing through the legislature in the United States.

I have made it very, very clear that as far as arms and weapons are concerned, wherever they come from, once they are here in our hands, they are Jordanian. And I have made it very, very clear that the dignity of this country is something that is sacred to us all. We will not accept to compromise it for anything under any conditions.

In any event, I believe that Stinger is no more and I will have to look for weapons wherever we can find them and secure them to fill the gap that we feel exists in terms of our capabilities to defend ourselves and our right to defend ourselves in the face of all dangers.

As for the area, you know it is passing through a difficult phase. We are against polarization in this area. We believe that what is at stake is our entire future, our freedom, and our identity as a people. So, with these facts, if the United States cannot play the role of the peacemaker, then it is our hope that in combination with the rest of the world we can move before it is too late.

[Question] Your Majesty, can you tell us whether you think that the victory of the Labor Party in the Israeli general elections would enhance the prospects for peace?

[Husayn] The Labor Party was obviously in power earlier on. We were not able to get very far. But I am very interested in the phenomena that we see, that Labor appears to be more responsible in terms of its announced position so far, and for a party in opposition to adopt such an attitude is very interesting to watch. And if Labor as a result comes to power, then maybe there is a change that is a healthy one in Israel itself. We will have to wait and see what happens.

[Question] Your Majesty, you say that you would perhaps look for weapons wherever you could find them. The fact that the queen has just been here, would it influence you more toward buing them from Britain now as a result of her visit?

[Husayn] Sir, my approach has always been in the recent years to move towards Europe whenever possible and the United Kingdom in particular, with which we have many ties and we are proud of it, but also to move further afield to look everywhere for whatever meets our requirement as such. And if the question is whether we will look at Soviet weapons or Chinese weapons, we will look at everything that is available.

[Question] If the two were equal, the fact that the queen has been here, would you now go for the U.K.?

[Husayn] With the United Kingdom we are continuously in touch and we have a lot of equipment which we are very proud of and happy to have within the Armed Forces. We will be looking into all options. That includes the U.K.

[Question] Your Majesty, do you think that Jordan is now in a position of some importance with regard to the other Arab nations to bring about a renewed peace initiative [words indistinct] for what they have been fighting for?

[Husayn] The priorities I am working on and have been for a period of time, is first of all the Palestinian-Jordanian dimension to see what we could do to have the vision of the future of these relations that are obviously very, very strong and very special and particularly in the face of the challenges that we both confront that effect our future as they do our present [as heard] and in total freedom from any pressure from any side except the genuine desire to see what could be done to seek the recovery of the occupied territories in terms of the people, their land, and their rights.

In other words, what we are trying to do is to have a clear understanding of how we could move and what our future relations will be, and so that at a time when a solution is found people can express themselves. And hopefully, if we are able at this stage, to formulate the concept of the future then they will be obviously looking at it.

In the meantime, our own working relationship will be improved to the point where we can go to our brethren in the Arab world and tell them that we think that this should be done or that should be done. We are the people immediately concerned. This is our view. We believe that this will have a positive influence. It will be the first time that the initiative would be in Palestinian and Jordanian hands and Arab hands. And in the meantime, within the Arab world as well, we are trying our best to see what could be done to overcome the period of paralysis which we suffered many, many years. Something has crept into the scene. The idea that everything has to be achieved through a concensus doesn't work. So the majority can sit and debate and formulate policy in their own best interest and in the interest of the Arabs and their future. We are working on these two dimensions. And obviously, also, we are constantly in touch with our friends throughout the world to see what possibilities exist.

[Indistinct question]

[Husayn] Well, I have given them that message time and again. We are with them and we support them to the best of our abilities. We will do everything we can to ensure that when we speak about Arab dignity and restoring it, this only takes form when they are free, when their dignity is restored, and when their rights are restored. We will never let them down and we will do our utmost to stay with them until such time as a solution is found to this problem.

[Question] Your Majesty, returning to the queen's visit, do you think there is any link between the queen's visit here and the explosive bomb last Saturday in Amman and the shooting of the British envoy?

[Husayn] I can't really connect them. It is a very mad world and unfortunately a very sad one in many respects. I really can't see any connection between these events; except maybe as far as the explosive device that was placed outside the Intercontinental in Amman. Well, people knew that you were there and that they wanted to give you something to write about. [laughter] But at no point was there any idea that there was any danger to the queen while she was in Jordan. If we took precautions it was to reassure our friends that everything possible was done. I think she was in the house of all Jordanians and there was never a problem, never a worry, as far as we were concerned. As for the Athens incident, I really don't [words indistinct] I really don't know what is behind it.

[Question] Here in the Port of Aqaba we see many ships, and some of them are unloading materials to go to Iraq. How worried are you, Your Majesty, about the continuance of that already very long drawn war with Iran? Do you see any hope at all of seeing it being brought to a conclusion?

[Husayn] I am worried. This is a tragic war that has claimed so many lives. It seems futile. it is a fact [words indistinct] in terms of the human dimension, and feeling dimension, but more so the human one. And again I can't understand. Because I believe that if it were a dispute over borders, there is (words indistinct) history for those sides to sit together and negotiate to find the right answer to this problem. and the other element is a fairly obvious one. It is one that affects the relations of states. These relations should be based on mutual respect and noninteference in the affairs of each other. And that does not apply to only Iraq and Iran, but Iran and her other neighbors in the Gulf. Why this war should continue that long, I find it tragic and sad. And I can only suggest, particularly when Iraq has responded positively to every initiative that has been so far, including withdrawing to the Iraq borders, that the only reason for this war and its continuation is probably the desire to create a problem in terms of creating a division amongst the people of Iraq and probably the people of the region which would affect the Gulf, Saudi Arabia and this entire area east of Suez.

And this is something we oppose very strongly. It would be a catastrophe, more than anything that we have seen, not only in this area but in the world. And it is totally [word indistinct]. We have supported Iraq not only because we are members of the Arab League, and the charter implies that we should in the face of a foreign threat, and more than that, we have a joint defense agreement that compels us to do so, but we believe that the Iraqis are right. They have rights. On the other hand, there are [words indistinct) . They have been positive to every initiative to bring this war to an end [words indistinct] as soon as possible. In the meantime, unfortunately, it goes on.

Aqaba, as you know, has always been available to Iraq since the beginning when Iraq has been denied the use of the Gulf for its own [word indistinct].

[Indistinct question]

[Husayn] The visit was a state visit to Jordan. I believe that you would have realized in advance that I would not have taken the liberty to trouble her majesty with political issues of the area. I had the privilege, as did my government and colleagues, of showing her Jordan as best as we could; Jordan of the past, Jordan of the present, our hopes and aspirations for the future. And as to what her majesty might have felt [words indistinct] that is not for me to comment upon. We have all been overwhelmed by her. Friendship toward Jordan is not new. We have been friends for many years and myself and my family. and we have been very happy and very proud that the visit had taken place.

I obviously discuss the political aspects of our relations continuously with the British Government, and this is a continuous process. My visits there and contacts never cease, and also I discuss these aspects with the President of the United States and his [words indistinct] in the American Adminstration. I can't add more to that. Thank you very, very much. Relax and enjoy yourselves.

[Question] Your Majesty, excuse me, if I [words indistinct] and my colleague for one moment. As a BBC correspondent, Your Majesty, it has been often been my privelege to come to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. For some others in our party, this has been their first visit. But all of take away, whether we are newcomers or veterans, very vivid memories; memories, Your Majesty, of the helpfulness of your officials. Here I would like to mention your charming and very effective Minister of Information Mrs Sharaf. We would like to thank you for the arrangements you have made; like a Napoleonic army, the press corps also marches on its stomach [laughter]. We much appreciated the excellence of the hospitality provided. Our only regret is there was not time to enjoy [word indistinct] as fully as we would have liked . We realize, Your Majesty, that the safety of the queen posed very grave problems for your forces. And we, on our part, have done our best to operate in what we know were reasonable constraints. We hope that your officers have not found us too unruly and we hope that the demands of reporting and of security have been satisfactorily reconciled. Finally, Your Majesty, may I thank Queen Nur, your officers, and yourself. And may I on behalf of my colleagues ask them to join me in wishing you and your family and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan every prosperity in the future.

[Husayn] Thank you.

ARRA'Y Comments on King Husayn's call to Europe

JN310800 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 31 Mar 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The European Countries Have Two Choices", *ARRA'Y* says: In his statements to journalists in Aqaba, King Husayn has made a new call to Europe, including the United Kingdom, to assume a more positive role in achieving just peace in the Middle East. His majesty explained that real peace in our region is a requirement for world peace, because the problems that face the region are not ours alone. They affect the countries of the world and world peace.

No one needs to be reminded that the European countries now have one of two choices: Either let the collapsed U.S. role in the region produce its negative effects — negative effects which will largely affect Europe — and complicate the situation here since U.S. policy has lost its credibility, or begin to translate their position toward the Palestinian question into real action that surpasses issuing statements. This is manifested in the call for an international conference in which all sides concerned would participate in seeking a just solution to the problem.

AR-RA'Y adds: No one can deny the difficulties that Europe will face in convincing the U.S. Administration to abandon its opposition to convening the proposed conference. This is because of the Zionist pressures this administration has encountered in Congress as well as the bartering that has taken place in the U.S. election arena to attract Jewish votes at the expense of the Arab cause and the reputation and interests of the United States.

AR-RA'Y concludes: The reason for King Husayn's call to Europe is so that those countries can understand the situation and help reach a just solution that will satisfy all sides, because we all have an interest in peace. The door must not be left open either for those who work to threaten peace; for those who find this threat a means for blackmail; or for those who are interested in the status quo and find this status quo a means for supplicating the aggressors and obtaining in exchange for this supplication, a price represented by the votes given to them by the Jewish groups.

Cabinet Approves Border Demarcation Agreement

JN311007 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 31 Mar 84 p 31

[Text] Amman — The cabinet has approved the border demarcation agreement between Jordan and Iraq which was recently signed in Baghdad by the foreign ministers of the two fraternal countries.

AD-DUSTUR has learned that the agreement will be issued as a draft law, and will be referred to Parliament for approval.

Fu'ad Farraj Elected for Vacant Jerusalem Seat

JN011238 Amman Doemstic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Amman — In elections held at the House of Representatives today, Engineer Fu'ad Farraj won the vacant Christian seat for the Jerusalem and Jericho area. Engineer Farraj gained 39 votes after his opponent, Dr Suhayl Khuri, withdrew.

The House of Representatives held a session this morning under speaker 'Akif al-Fayiz for this purpose.

Israeli Report on King's Jerusalem Visit Denied

JN011853 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Israeli television this evening quoted Queen Elizabeth of Britain as saying that His Majesty King Husayn will visit Jerusalem during the next coming weeks to open peace negotiations with Israel. Following this report, an official spokesman said that this report has caused ridicule, because it is well known that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth cannot convey political messages and does not interfere in local or international political affairs. The spokesman added: Israeli media might be practicing the well known habits of 1 April, just as it always practices them whenever it wants to disseminate lies.

Israel Admits Story False

JN011948 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] At about 1900 this evening, Israel television interrupted its programs and said that Queen Elizabeth II of Britain had informed Hayim Herzog, who is currently in London, that His Majesty King Husayn is ready to enter into negotiations and to visit Jerusalem. The television itself announced at about 2000 that the news was only an April fool's joke.

An official spokesman commented on this lie, saying that it was obvious that Israel was practicing the habits of 1 April and that Israel resorts to such methods not only on 1 april but also on most of the days of the year — whenever it wants to disseminate lies.The Israelis were compelled to quickly deny this news because it was a big lie. It is well known that Britain's queen cannot convey political messages and does not interfere in local or international political affairs.

Al-Jumayyil Ends Multinational Force Mission

NC311422 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Ambassador Khalil Makkawi, Foreign Ministry acting secretary general, today handed the Italian charge d'affaires and French Embassy's first counsellor messages from Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim for the Italian and French Governments, informing them that President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has decided to terminate the Multinational Force's mission in Lebanon.

On behalf of President al-Jumayyil, Minister Salim thanked all the governments who had contributed to the force.

This afternoon Ambassador Makkawi will hand the British consul in Lebanon a similar message from Minister Salim for the British Government. A fourth message was delivered to the U.S. Embassy.

Beirut on 'Appreciation' Letters

NC301618 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1505 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Letters have been drawn up to express Lebanon's appreciation and gratitude for the help rendered by the countries which supplied troops for the Multinational Force. The letters drawn up on the occasion of the termination of the mission of the force will be handed to the diplomatic representatives in Beirut of the United States, France, Italy, and Britain.

The last French troops are scheduled to leave Beirut tomorrow, marking the end of the Multinational Force's mission.

Foreign Minister Elie Salim drew up the letters during a meeting with Khalil Makkawi, acting secretary general of the ministry. Earlier, the two men met with senior ministry officials to review foreign policy affairs and future diplomatic moves.

Minister Salim conferred by telephone today with Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri who is scheduled to return to Beirut tomorrow on a mission for King Fahd. Al-Hariri said Saudi Arabia was willing to help ensure observance of the cease-fire.

Contacts, Ceremony Regarding French Withdrawal

Cheysson, Hernu Meet Al-Jumayyil

NC310821 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Charles Hernu and Claude Cheysson, French ministers of defense and external relations, respectively, arrived in Beirut this morning to attend the ceremony to be held on the occasion of the completion of the French contingent's withdrawal from Beirut. Immediately upon their arrival, the two ministers went to the Presidential Palace, where they were received by President Amin al-Jumayyil. General Lacaze, chief of the French Joint Staff, and French Ambassador to Lebanon Ferdinand Wibaux also attended the meeting.

Cheysson Statement After Meeting

NC310954 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] On emerging from the Presidential Palace, French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson said: President al-Jumayyil wanted to see me, together with my colleague the defense minister. As you know, the French president sent us to observe the results of the deployment of Lebanese personnel, appointed by President al-Jumayyil, in place of the French contingent. We also came to see the deployment of some French personnel who have assumed other duties. We will attend the ceremony to be held on this occasion. I believe this ceremony is the most important activity today.

Cheysson was asked: Was the question of increasing the number of French observers raised? He answered: The question of the French presence here was raised. This presence assumes several cultural and economic aspects, as wll as a military one, which is represented by our observers, UNIFIL contingent, and instructors. He was asked: How do you appraise the French participation in the Multinational Force? Has the task of this force ended after 18 months? Cheysson answered: I would like to say that the French are now closer to the Lebanese than at any time in the past. The experience of our forces here has also brought our peoples closer.

Cheysson was then asked: The Lebanese met at the Lausanne conference. What is the role that France could play to help implement the conference's resolutions in a manner harmonious with the Lausanne spirit. Cheysson answered: The Lebanese president should tell us how to participate in this. Anyhow, I see that the reconciliation process has produced some results with regard to the replacement of the French contingent at the positions which guarantee Beirut's unity.

Ceremony; Hernu on Observers

NC311236 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Charles Hernu and Claude Cheysson, French ministers of defense and external relations, respectively, arrived in Beirut this morning and went immediately to B'abda Palace, where they were received by President Amin al-Jumayyil at 0930. They discussed bilateral relations and the continuing Lebanese-French cooperation to establish peace in Lebanon. The two French ministers are accompanied by Chief of Staff General Lacaze.

Immediately after the meeting at the Presidential Palace, the two ministers went to Beirut Port, where they attended a farewell ceremony on the occasion of the withdrawal of the last group of troops of the French contingent with the Multinational Force.

During the farewell ceremony, French Defense Minister Charles Hernu said France will very likely increase the number of French observers if the Higher Political Security Committee requests this. Hernu did not specify the possible increase in the number of the observers, who comprise 40 officers and noncommissioned officers.

Mitterrand Invites Junblatt To Visit Paris

NC311855 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Former Minister Marwan Hamadah has met with Claude Cheysson, French minister for external relations. They discussed the arrangements for and date of the visit that Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt will make to Paris in response to an invitation from French President Francois Mitterrand. It is worth noting that President Mitterrand extended the invitation in a handwritten message.

In the presence of Bruno Delaye, director of the French External Relations Ministry, Ministers Hamadah and Cheysson reviewed the various aspects of the Lebanese situation and the role that France can play to achieve an Israeli withdrawal from the south as well as other subjects related to the steps to achieve the pacification of the situation and success of the reconciliation efforts.

Italy Terminates Peacekeeping Commitment

LD302102 Rome Domestic Service in Italian 2030 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] It has been learned from the Farnesina [Foreign Ministry] that the Italian ambassador in Beirut has been instructed to communicate to the Lebanese Government that Italy considers the commitment assumed with the dispatch of the Italian peace contingent to Lebanon terminated. The ambassador also communicated that the Italian Government's commitment in favor of Lebanon's unity, independence, and territorial integrity remains unchanged, as does its willingness to contribute to the country's reconstruction.

Al-Wazzan Raps U.S. Policy in Talks With U.S. Envoy

NC301232 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has given his particular attention to the situation in the south. Within this framework, he received U.S. Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew this morning and discussed with him at length the grave situation in the south resulting from the oppressive Israeli practices, especially in Jibshit.

Al-Wazzan stressed the necessity of immediately stopping these practices and ending the Israeli occupation of the south as soon as possible. He held the United States responsible because it protects Israel, extends it unlimited political and military support, and uses its veto right every time Lebanon or the Arabs resort to the Security Council in order to foil the useful international resolutions.

Al-Wazzan further stressed the importance of resorting to all methods to implement Security Council Resolutions 508 and 509 in addition to Resolution 425 which established the UN Emergency Force in the south.

Foreign Ministry Sources on Relations With U.S.

NC020730 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] Foreign Ministry sources explained yesterday that the return of Lebanese-U.S. relations to their normal framework following the special distinctive relations that existed during the presence of the Marines and U.S. Fleet in Lebanon does not mean the U.S. role has ended or that the relations between the two countries have deteriorated. The sources maintained that the relative retreat from Lebanese issues was due to the preoccupation of President Reagan and U.S. officials with the U.S. presidential election campaign. However, the United States is continuing its efforts and coordinating its work with some of its allies that are currently taking primary interest in the Lebanese situation. This is in addition to its official commitment to implement the economic aid program for Lebanon on schedule and continue training the Lebanese Armed Forces.

Reportage on Visit of Soviet Official Brutents

Arrives in Al-Biqa' 30 Mar

JN310722 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department, arrived in Al-Biqa' from Damascus yesterday. He will visit the Al-Biqa' for several days. The visit comes at the invitation of the Lebanese Communist Party and Progressive Socialist Party. Lebanese Foreign Ministry sources in Beirut said the USSR official will visit Beirut next week for talks with Foreign Minister Elie Salim and other Lebanese officials.

Beirut on Contacts

NC311554 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1520 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Khalil Makkawi, Foreign Ministry acting secretary general, conferred by telephone today with the Soviet charge d'affaires on arrangements for meetings of the special Soviet envoy with Foreign Minister Salim and other officials. The Soviet envoy, who is the deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department, arrived in Beirut today at the head of a Soviet delegation for talks on the Lebanese crisis.

Junblatt Meets Soviet Delegation

NC311813 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt received in Al-Mukhtarah at noon today a CPSU Central Committee delegation that arrived yesterday in response to an invitation from the PSP. The delegation is led by Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department. The delegation was accompanied by Soviet ambassador to Lebanon Aleksandr Soldatov and a number of embassy staff.

Upon its arrival at Al-Mukhtarah Palace, the delegation proceeded, in the company of Walid Junblatt, to the tomb of martyr teacher Kamal Junblatt and placed a wreath on it. Later, a meeting was held at the palace between Walid Junblatt and the Soviet delegation. This was followed by a luncheon banquet, after which the Soviet delegation left for Beirut.

Brutents, Birri Meet; Statements

NC011929 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] The CPSU delegation that has been visiting Lebanon for 3 days now in response to an invitation from the Progressive Socialist Party, today visited Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri. They reviewed the current developments in Lebanon, particularly the events in the south.

After the delegation had lunch with Nabih Birri, the head of the delegation Karen Brutents, [deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department], made the following statement to the Voice of the Mountain radio's correspondent:

The atmosphere was amicable. We deal with the Lebanese nationalist forces in a close and constant manner because we have the same aims as these forces. The most important aims are: protecting Lebanon and its unity against the imperialist allegations [as heard], liberating the south, and providing the Lebanese people with the opportunity to develop as they wish. This cooperation is (?manifest) in the Soviet Union's good and harmonious stand.

As to how southern Lebanon can be assisted in emerging from its crisis, the head of the Soviet delegation said: The Soviet Union constantly and firmly supports not only the liberation of the south, but also the liberation of the occupied Arab territories. We regard the liberation of southern Lebanon as a prelude to the solution of all Arab problems.

Replying to a question as to how he assesses the current Lebanese situation, the head of the Soviet delegation said: We believe the situation in Lebanon is still complex and the success achieved by the nationalist forces in abrogating the 17 May agreement and in expelling the Multinational Forces is very important for resolving all of the national problems in Lebanon.

After the Soviet delegation emerged [from the meeting], Nabih Birri made a statement in which he said: The discussions with the visiting Soviet delegation focused on the Israeli occupation of the south and ways to liberate the south as an imperative prelude to the reunification and modern construction of Lebanon. We presented a detailed review of what is happening in the south — attacks on villages, arrests of inhabitants, and violations of the sanctities — which necessitates effective action and places a special responsibility on the liberation movements in the world. [words indistinct]

Nabih Birri went on to say: We also reviewed the position of the UN emergency forces in the south and the possibility of increasing their number and enhancing their effectiveness in order to play the role assigned to them since 1978. We also exchanged views on the entire Lebanese situation and the ways and means to restore Lebanon as a unified, Arab, and independent country. We also explained in detail the sectarian structure in Lebanon and the adverse effects it has on Lebanon's unity.

Birri added: It can be said that our views were in agreement, and that the Soviet delegation understands these facts to a great extent and has the conviction that Lebanon's affairs, unity, and destiny are closely linked to the situation in the south and its liberation and destiny.

It is worth noting that Brutents, the head of the Soviet delegation, has extended an invitation to the leader of the Amal Movement and the Movement's Command Council to visit Moscow.

Brutents Meets Salim, Statement

NC021248 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1145 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim received Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov and Soviet envoy Karen Brutents at 1145 today. The meeting between Minister Salim, Soviet Ambassador Soldatov, and Soviet envoy Brutents, the deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department, lasted 1 hour. The meeting was attended by Ambassador Dr Khalil Makkawi, acting Foreign Ministry secretary general; and Alfred al-'Alam, the foreign minister's private secretary. After the meeting, Brutents declared: It was a good opportunity to affirm the Soviet position, which fully supports Lebanon and the Lebanese people. This meeting gave us a good opportunity to affirm the Soviet Union's principled and firm support for Lebanon's independence and sovereignty. We also affirmed to the foreign minister our desire to maintain relations of friendship and cooperation between Lebanon and the Soviet Union. We seized this opportunity to express our denunciation and condemnation of Israel's continued occupation of southern Lebanon, and to stress the need for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied Lebanese territory in accordance with the unanimously adopted Security Council resolutions.

Brutents added: During our meeting with the foreign minister, we mentioned that the Soviet Union sees the abrogation of the 17 May agreement and withdrawal of the Multinational Forces from Lebanese territory as benefiting the Lebanese people. We also affirmed that we in the Soviet Union hope the Lebanese people will quickly pass this painful period and achieve a national accord that will lead to peace and stability in Lebanon.

Asked what role the Soviet Union can play to assist Lebanon at this time, Brutents said: We have supported and continue to support by all means and forms Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. We always thought that the idea of achieving a national accord in Lebanon was a correct one. And now, following the abrogation of the 17 May agreement and withdrawal of the Multinational Forces, we think a great barrier on the path to a national accord has been removed. He added: We shall continue to support this policy with all means at our disposal.

Diplomatic sources said the talks between the foreign minister and Soviet envoy focused on the new role that the Soviet Union can play to support Lebanon's and sovereignty, and to support the UN Security Council resolution on the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon. The talks also dealt with some international formulas to ensure the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanese territory, the French draft resolution on Greater Beirut, and the effectiveness of the UN emergency forces in southern Lebanon.

The Soviet envoy is scheduled to visit the Presidential Palace tomorrow.

Al-Wazzan, Soldatov Discuss Situation, Statements

NC011240 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan this morning received at his house Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov and discussed with him the serious dimensions of the oppressive Israeli actions in the south and the Soviet role in ending the Israeli occupation.

After the meeting, the Soviet ambassador said:

[Begin recording in Russian with superimposed Arabic translation] First, we would like to thank Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan for this interview and the discussion which revolved around the situation in Lebanon and around Lebanon. I can say that one of the questions that took a large portion of this meeting was the situation in south Lebanon.

On our part, we asserted the Soviet stand on Lebanon and situation around Lebanon. It is a known stand. This is all we have to say about the meeting. [end recording]

Prime Minister al-Wazzan said:

[Begin recording] [Al-Wazzan] Since my meeting with the southern ministers a few days ago, I have been working continuously to deal with the serious situation in the south. After reviewing the quick Lebanese action taken at the Arab League's Council, we are now holding bilateral contacts with the superpowers and other states. Despite the fact that today is a holiday, we met with His Excellency Soviet Ambassador Soldatov. Our meeting took place, perhaps coincidentally, on the first day after the departure of the Multinational Force — the departure of the last batch of French forces. We are facing a new era. We must benefit from various friendships and all effective and influential forces on the international and Arab arenas. The Soviet Union is one of the effective and influential superpowers in the world and in our region. Lebanon is a part of this region.

We have always adopted a balanced policy within the framework of the nonaligned policy. Due to our circumstances after the Israeli occupation, we had to depend on the United States — the state with the most influence over Israel. Despite this, the United States itself declared that it failed in its efforts to ensure the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. Therefore, it became our duty to make new moves on the basis of a new chapter which opened following the departure of the last contingent of the Multinational Force in order to win the world forces to the side of Lebanon.

As you have heard from his excellency the ambassador, the discussions dealt with the general situation in Lebanon and the situation in the south in particular. The south is presently being eaten away. We cannot possibly keep it quiet that a grain of soil of Lebanon is being eaten up, particularly in the dear south and Al-Biqa', parts of which are under the yoke of Israeli occupation. The forces in Lebanon must unite and the Arab forces must rise to the level of their responsibilities. What has been decided by the Arab states at the Arab League's Council is beautiful in its phraseology and ethics. However, what has been said does not liberate the land.

We must first hail the heroism and honorable and firm national stand of the Lebanese resistance. However, these heroic deeds must be backed by official, popular, and Arab practical stands, and not stands on paper only. We intend to make moves in the international arena also. To initiate such moves, we must contact the states which are effective internationally. Today's meeting with the Soviet ambassador is a link in these moves, which we hope will bear fruit. The situation is dangerous and I cannot keep silent.

[Unidentified reporter] Within the framework of today's diplomatic move, do you intend to contact the ambassadors of certain fraternal Arab and other friendly states?

[Al-Wazzan] As we said before, the move must be comprehensive. We have moved with the states with international influence. The Soviet Union is one of them. [end recording]

Various Media On Israeli-Syrian Al-Biqa' Clashes

VOL on Clash 30 March

NC310827 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0817 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] According to information from the Western Al-Biqa', an exchange of fire took place between Syrian and Israeli forces on the Mdukha-As-Sultan Ya'qub axis at 2215 last night. The exchange of fire continued until midnight. Initial information indicates that one Israeli soldier was killed, while Syrian casualties are not known.

RFL On Fighting

NC011705 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1650 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] A report from Al-Biqa' indicates that clashes in which rockets and artillery were used took place around 1700 today throughout the combat lines between Israeli and Syrian forces and [word indistinct] until the western coast of [words indistinct]

Israeli Tanks Shell Syrians

NC011746 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1720 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] A few minutes ago, we learned that several Israeli tanks have been stationed on the ridges north of Mdukha and began shelling the opposite Syrian emplacements in the Al-Biqa' Valley. For some time, fierce artillery duels have been fought there along the axis of As-Sultan Ya'qub-yanta and the western [word indistinct] of Mount Hermon. Flares are being set off in order to illuminate the military positions and sources of the fire.

As night started to fall, Syrian and Israeli military helicopters were seen overflying the rear lines of the combat area.

RFL: Long-Range Shelling Continues

NC012135 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] It was established that the shelling exchanged this afternoon between Israelis and Syrians in the Al-Biqa' Valley has covered the areas of Al-Baruq, 'Ammiq, Ghazzah, As-Safrah, 'Anjar, Hawsh (Al-Hariri), [words indistinct], Al-Rawdah, Al-Marj, At-Tibbiyah, Dahr al-Baydar Heights, and the ridges of (?Tamnin).

Reports [words indistinct] say the Syrians and Palestinians have suffered several casualties, dead and wounded, as a result of the long-range exchange of shellfire which remained intense until 1830, when it gradually began to ease.

In his latest report, our correspondent in the Al-Biqa' says long-range Syrian missile launchers, deployed in (?Turbul) were used. The shelling is still going on intermittently, flares are being released over the area, accompanied by intensive bursts of heavy- and medium-caliber weapons.

Arab League Adopts Lebanese Resolution on South

NC301201 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2025 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Tonight Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan received a telephone call from Ambassador Fu'ad at-Turk, Foreign Ministry secretary general and head of the Lebanese delegation to the Arab League Council meetings, who briefed the prime minister on the outcome of talks concerning placing the southern Lebanon question and the Israeli practices there on the council's agenda. Ambassador at-Turk informed Prime Minister al-Wazzan that the Arab League Council unanimously approved the Lebanese proposal regarding southern Lebanon.

The following is the text of the resolution:

The Arab League Council, after noting the memorandum presented by the Lebanese delegation, after hearing the review made by the head of the Lebanese delegation regarding Israeli practices in southern Lebanon, after a detailed discussion of the question, and after noting the recommendation of the Political Affairs Committee has decided:

1. To greet and support the steadfastness of the Lebanese people in the south, to laud their adherence to their land and national institutions, and to praise the heroic operations which the Lebanese resistance is carrying out against the Israeli occupation forces.

2. To warn against the dangers to Lebanon and other Arab states of the continuing Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory.

3. To denounce the oppressive practices in southern Lebanon and other measures to which the citizens there are being subjected, including their evacuation, dispersion, and losses in lives and property.

4. To focus the attention of world public opinion on this fact, and urge the states and governments as well as the appropriate international organizations to support the Lebanese Government's efforts which are aimed at ending the Israeli occupation and restoring the Lebanese state's control over all Lebanese territory.

5. To invite the member states to adopt the necessary measures to facilitate the import of southern Lebanese produce into their countries in accordance with the Economic and Social Council's resolutions in this regard.

Al-Jumayyil, Al-Wazzan Agree To Convene Cabinet

NC311324 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Excerpts] President Amin al-Jumayyil received Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan at 0945 this morning. The discussions dealt with the government's resignation and an invitation to convene it. They also dealt with the formation of a government of national unity. After the meeting, Prime Minister al-Wazzan made the following statement:

[Begin recording] [Al-Wazzan] This is my first meeting with the president following his return from Lausanne. You know that the government did not participate in the dialogue at Lausanne and in issuing the resolutions adopted there. Therefore, it was necessary that I meet with the president to be briefed on all that has been accomplished and on the president's intended future actions. My position in the government is known to all. When I went back on my resignation before the president's departure, I explained in precise terms that this was temporary and would only last until the end of the tour and holding of the required dialogue. There is absolutely no change in my position. I still insist on my resignation and on the formation of a new government. The president expressed the wish that we convene the Cabinet shortly to brief the ministers on what has been accomplished. We agreed to invite the ministers to a Cabinet meeting early next week.

[Unidentified reporter] When will it be held?

[Al-Wazzan] It might be held on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday. The date will be fixed within the next 24 hours in light of the president's engagements and security requirements.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you believe that the circumstances are opportune to form a new government?

[Al-Wazzan] Do not ask me about the circumstances. All the Lebanese must cooperate to impose the appropriate circumstances. We have reached our present situation because we always react to events. We must initiate our own action. We must provide the circumstances necessary for the formation of a government of national unity or of a national salvation government. How long will the Lebanese wait? Should they wait until Lebanon vanishes and is burned and all citizens killed? It is time for all of us to cooperate for Lebanon's welfare, peace, and tranquility. [end recording]

President Chairs Higher Security Committee Session

NC310700 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The Higher Political Security Committee resumed its meetings yesterday at the Presidential Palace under the chairmanship of President Amin al-Jumayyil and in the presence of various parties' representatives.

Yesterday's meeting was held in three stages. Pierre al-Khuri, public works and transport minister, and Staff Brigadier General Yasin Suwayd were invited to attend the first stage. The discussions dealt with the reopening of the airport. The discussion of the security details will be completed at other meetings. Minister al-Khuri and Staff Brigadier General Suwayd left the meeting at 2115. Al-Khuri expressed readiness to do whatever is necessary when a final agreement is reached on all details. He said some time will be needed to adopt practical measures for reopening the airport. The committee then resumed its discussions, which centered on security affairs in general. It broached the question of the cease-fire violation yesterday. The session was adjourned for 15 minutes at 2215 to give an opportunity to the representatives to contact their leaderships. The meeting was then resumed. It lasted until 0030, after which Beirut Prosecutor General Munif 'Uwaydat made the following statement:

[Begin recording]['Uwaydat] The Al-Barbir-Justice Palace Road was reopened today. The barriers and checkpoints were removed. The Internal Security Forces took over the positions on this road. Traffic is now very normal.

The committee discussed today's cease-fire violation. The side responsible has been defined, and the issue settled. Measures have been adopted to consolidate the cease-fire.

[Unidentified reporter] Were these the only issues discussed?

['Uwaydat] All issues were discussed. We will resume our meetings tomorrow. The decisions adopted today relate to the reopening of the Al-Barbir-Justice Palace Road, the removal of the barriers, and the deployment of the Internal Security Forces.

[Reporter] Are there any barriers left?

['Uwaydat] None whatsoever. [end recording]

Further on Meeting

NC312047 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] At approximately 2130 today, the meeting of the Higher Security Political Committee ended at B'abda Palace. The meeting began at 1900, and was held under the chairmanship of President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil.

Judge Munif 'Uwaydat, committee spokesman, made a short statement in which he said: The committee saw the reports submitted by the Subcommittee on the Disengagement of Forces. This is a technical matter and requires continuous meetings by this committee. The meetings of the Higher Security Political Committee have been postponed until Monday to consolidate the cease-fire.

Security Forces Take Over Positions in Beirut

NC310711 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Internal Security Forces sources told us that the Internal Security Forces this morning took over the two checkpoints in the Al-Barbir and Museum areas. The sources also told us that two Internal Security Forces' battalions took up positions at the two checkpoints and that the party flags were lowered. They added that the gunmen have withdrawn and that bulldozers and trucks will remove the dirt barriers and all obstacles on the Al-Barbir-Justice Palace Road this morning.

PSP, Amal Meet on Security Arrangements

NC311838 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Representatives of both the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] and Amal Movement have been holding meetings attempting to stabilize an overall cease-fire. Some of these meetings were held this morning in the presence of former Ministers Marwan Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt; Farid Fayyad, PSP popular army commander; Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri; and other key members of the Amal Movement's Command Council. The conferees discussed the outcome of the first and second sessions of the Higher Political-Security Committee held in B'abda Palace yesterday and the day before.

During these two sessions, a remarkable contradiction was noticed between the rhetoric and deeds of the Lebanese Front's representatives. Their rhetoric aims at convincing the Lebanese public that the Front is ready to remove the military roadblocks, dirt barricades, and armed emplacements. However, in reality the Front is obstructing all of this by insisting on retaining their barricades near the museum and by refusing to reopen the airport and port.

Meanwhile, the regime insists on keeping the Army in Suq al-Gharb and refuses to begin any negotiations on its emplacements there — the emplacements which are still being used to strike at the patriotic emplacements in the mountain.

Junblatt on Return of Villagers to Homes

NC011334 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt met this morning with former Ministers Marwan Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt; Lieutenant Colonel Sharif Fayyad; Wahbah Abu Fa‘ur; and a number of party leaders. They debated the discussions taking place by the Higher Political Security Committee and among the various national parties.

AFP at noon today quoted Walid Junblatt as having said in Beirut that the inhabitants of Bayt ad-Din and Ma‘asir Bayt ad-Din will be returned to their homes. Junblatt added that a decision in principle was adopted in this regard following discussions with formerPresident Camille Sham‘un. These discussions took place on the periphery of the National Dialogue Conference in Lausanne.

The PSP leader, who is on a visit of a few hours to Beirut, said the return of the inhabitants to the aforementioned villages is not imminent because their houses need to be repaired and this requires funds.

Franjiyah Calls for Tackling Security First

NC011632 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] In an interview to be published tomorrow in the newspaper *ASH-SHARQ*, former President Sulayman Franjiyah has stressed that it is necessary first to tackle the security situation and cease-fire, and then to discuss political matters. He also said that policy cannot be determined under the shadow of the gun, and as long as Israel has its agents. He added that as long as the gun exists no agreement would be suitable for implementation.

Franjiyah added that the deterrent [against conflict] in Lebanon can now only be the national conscience, in view of Lebanon's structure. Everything is simple when you follow your conscience, he noted.

RFL Reports 188 Killed in Beirut Last Month

NC011526 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] A short time ago, the shelling of Army positions in Suq al-Gharb and Qurs al-Mudawwar intensified. The shelling also included ‘Ayn as-Sayyidah and Bdadun. The sources of the shelling are the armed positions in ‘Alayh and Duhur al-‘Ibadiyah. The axes in the capital are witnessing intermittent rocket fire and shelling, particularly the Markets and Mar Mikha‘il axes.

Meanwhile, according to statistics, some 188 persons were killed in Beirut last month as a result of the incidents.

Amal Leader Birri News Conference 31 March

Raps U.S. Policy

NC311839 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Amal Movement leader lawyer Nabih Birri held a news conference today at his residence, attended by several members of the press, information media, and local, Arab, and international news agencies. He dealt with the current political and security situation, particularly the developments in the south. He emphasized that the fight against Israel will continue until the full liberation of the south is attained.

Birri said: We, and those we represent, Syria and the Arabs, are the ones who cancelled the 17 May agreement. Syria and Lebanon are one people in two independent states. We will not allow the creation of nations within the one nation, neither under the veil of a federation nor under the slogan of cantons and military divisions.

Israel and its military rulers, including Sharon, Shamir, and Arens are now staging the most serious game in the area since 1948. Their objective is to arrive at the 23 July elections with calm prevailing in southern Lebanon in Galilee's interest. Therefore, we are concerned to affirm that we are not responsible for Galilee's security. We will accept no security arrangements outside the framework of the armistice agreement and UN Security Council Resolutions 425, 508, and 509. Cutting all roads in the south, including the coastal highway, will not ensure stability for the elections. This stability can only be achieved by an unconditional and full withdrawal from the last inch of land in the south.

The U.S. elections and race among the U.S. candidates to give Israel rights in Jerusalem at our expense is futile, although Israel is given rights in the United States itself. The United States is a full partner to Israel in usurping our lands and seizing our rights. Within this latter framework, the Lebanese authorities have thus far failed to submit a complaint to the UN Security Council for fear of a U.S. veto. Lawyer Birri said: Why this Lebanese-U.S. collusion. Let there be a complaint, and let there be a veto and severance of relations with the United States. On this we rely, after God, upon our people in Lebanon, particularly in Iqlim al-Kharrub and southern Lebanon.

Lawyer Birri said: The establishment of Israeli barriers, its siege of Jibbayn, Jibshit, Ash-Shihabiyah, Tarkifa, Qallawiyah, Ma‘rakah, and Burj Rahhal, and the detention of many officials of the Amal Movement in these and other villages, as well as the Israeli measures as of yesterday in ‘Arab Salim and ‘Aramta and near the Imam as-Sadr Institution in Burj ash-Shamali, strengthens our determination. I am confident that the Movement's decision is not only confined to strikes and sit-ins, but is also to prevent the Israelis from entering the villages and to resist Israel with all our powers.

Says Demands Not 'Forsaken'

NC311357 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] At a news conference he held at noon today, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri said the Amal Movement is prepared to provide every facility to achieve a security truce. He added: No one should imagine that we have forsaken any of the demands we made in Lausanne, foremost of which is the demand that the political officials be made to account for the massacre committed in [Beirut's southern] suburb and Ra's an-Nab'. He added: The opposition's sole [as heard] demand is that political sectarianism be abolished. Nabih Birri said: We are for halting the fighting and adopting all the necessary measures to achieve that. We are also for opening the airport and crossing points. Those who obstructed this in the past are the same persons obstructing it now. Nabih Birri pointed out that the 6th Brigade is the legitimate national army, and it alone is qualified to protect the security of national Beirut. As for the Army that devastated the capital, it must be reconsidered. Birri added: The cutting of the highway between the capital and south reveals the conspiracy against the south. Finally, Nabih Birri emphasized that the Amal Movement and nationalists are determined to liberate that highway.

On 'Puppet' Army in South

NC311521 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 31 84

[Text] This afternoon, Amal leader Nabih Birri held a news conference which he began by by saluting the First National Conference in support of the [Lebanese] South. Birri then commented on the Arab League's resolution concerning the south, saying the resolution is positive but not sufficient. There will be no peace in Lebanon and the Arab world as long as the south is not liberated, he said. Birri added that the south rejects any form of mercenary armies and will only accept an Arab, national army. Birri urged all communities in the south to unite in the face of the puppet army in the south and the plot being extended to the Al-Kharrub region. The plotters, Birri said, want to sever a part of the Al-Kharrub region to establish their federal borders. Birri said: We will not allow several nations to sprout out of this one nation — not under the pretext of federalism or that of cantons and military divisions. Birri added: The uprising of the south and the steadfastness of its inhabitants constitute a good lesson for those in the Lebanese Front who draw plans for the so-called southern army.

Finally, Birri saluted the Palestinian people on the occasion of Land Day, and hailed the lawyers' sit-in at the United Nations building [not further specified].

Karami Blames U.S. for Israeli Actions in South

NC311504 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Regarding the uprising in southern Lebanon and the current situation, [former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami has made the following statement:

[Begin recording] Israel is daily committing further acts of aggression and barbarism, especially in the south. The Israelis have surrounded the town of Jibshit. Before that, they surrounded the town of Ma'rakah and many other towns. This confirms that the enemy is continuing his attempts to impose his hegemony over the area and subject the south to its satanic plan. The Israelis are now trying to fragment Lebanon by separating one area from another and by cutting the roads to prevent citizens from contacting each other. All this is taking place before the eyes and within earshot of the entire world; yet, the world remains silent with regard to this injustice and occupation. We hold the United States responsible for all these actions because, in the end, it is the protector of Israel and its partner in this plot. Therefore, we want the Lebanese Government to act in accordance with its responsibilities and complain to the Security Council in order to unmask all the hellish ambitions and barbaric actions taking place in our country. This is the least we can expect. [end recording]

Sham'un Briefs Party Leaders on Lausanne Talks

NC301442 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] The Higher Political Council of the National Liberal Party held its weekly meeting this morning at its headquarters in Al-Ashrafiyah under the chairmanship of former President Camille Sham'un. Sham'un briefed the council's leaders on the results of the National Dialogue Conference in Lausanne.

Junblatt On Lausanne Conference, Dialogue

NC311338 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] In an interview conducted by the *ASH-SHIRA'* magazine, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt was asked about his final assessment of the results of the Lausanne conference. Junblatt replied: We wanted to emerge from the meeting with a new political system based on the abolition of political sectarianism — one that establishes the foundations of a new Lebanon free from the spectre of civil war. This was the mutual stand of the Amal Movement, specifically Nabih Birri, and us. However, we collided with the Lebanese Front's obstacles and refusal [to cooperate] as well as with the federal plan proposed by this Front. Also, Amin al-Jumayyil came up with an inadequate working paper he regarded as a summation of the working papers that were forwarded, when, in fact his working paper consisted of vague points.

Replying to another question on how the dialogue can continue, Junblatt said: If the battles and shelling continue, that means there can be no dialogue because we cannot talk while the battles are raging and artillery is shelling. A minimum cease-fire must be observed, and at least, the forces must be disengaged and the Security Arrangements Committee must be effective.

Junblatt Meets With Mufti Khalid 1 April

NC011905 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt, today visited Mufti Hasan Khalid. He discussed with him the security and political developments in the Lebanese arena. Their points of view were identical. Walid Junblatt emphasized that good and firm ties link him with Mufti Khalid — ties that are aimed at unifying the Islamic national ranks. Regarding western Beirut, Junblatt said: We are working according to the mufti's directives concerning the affairs of Beirut.

High-Level Islamic Meeting Held 31 March

NC311612 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1505 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] A top-level Islamic meeting was chaired by the Mufti of the Republic Shaykh Hasan Khalid at Dar al-Fatwa today. Several former prime ministers, ministers, and former deputies, deputies, and prominent figures were present. Former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam distributed copies of minutes of the meeting of the Lausanne conference and the final communique. The work of the Higher Political-Security Committee and the situation in the south and in Iqlim al-Kharrub were reviewed.

A statement issued after the meeting stressed the need for all parties to fully adhere to their commitments, especially agreements on the cease-fire and an end to hostilities, and the removal of confrontation lines. They also considered issues related to the reopening of the Beirut port and airport, and steps to restore normal life to Beirut.

Mufti Qabalan Optimistic Over Committee Work

NC311617 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1505 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] The Ja'farite mufti, 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan, expressed today his optimism about the work of the Higher Security-Political Commission. He hopes that a complete cease-fire would be maintained, and stressed on opening the active sectors, especially the airport and the seaport, so that Lebanon could return to the world and vice versa. This came in a statement in which Qabalan stressed that the work of the Higher Security-Political Committee had received an optimistic atmosphere from the Lebanese population. Qabalan also voiced hope that the cease-fire would continue so that the homeless would return home and resume their normal role in life, and so that schools could receive the students in a bid to salvage the academic year.

Christians, Druze Reach Agreement On Al-Kharrub

NC302040 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Na'um Farah, official spokesman of the Lebanese Forces Command, has affirmed that the road from the south via Batir ash-Shuf to Beirut and back is now open and being used daily by hundreds of vehicles. The road is only closed to Christian citizens. This is contrary to reports about the isolation of the south or the Sunni villages in the Al-Kharrub region. Farah said agreement has been reached between the Christian and Druze residents of the Al-Kharrub region to end armed manifestations by all parties in the region in preparation for the creation of an atmosphere conducive to the restoration of normal life. This agreement opens the door for ending the tragic atmosphere resulting from the mountain war.

More on South Lebanon's Strike Against Israelis

NC301640 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1505 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] South Lebanon was gripped by a regionwide strike today staged in response to the appeals issued by Shi'ite spiritual leader Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri, and Mufti of Sidon Shaykh Muhammad Salim Jalal ad-Din. The strike was called in protest against arbitrary Israeli measures, and as an expression of the growing rage of the people of the south against Israeli desecration of places of worship and its attacks on civilians and on public freedom. The strike was observed in Sidon, Tyre, An-Nabatiyah, Bint Jubayl, and other cities, towns, and villages of the south. Activity in the public and private sectors came to a standstill, and shops, schools, banks, and public institutions closed down. Highways were blocked by rocks and burning tires, and rallies were staged in different parts of the south to protest against the Israeli measures. Prayers were held in mosques to commemorate the martyrs killed by Israeli occupation forces in Jibshit early this week. Israeli forces and their collaborating militias mantained patrols outside the mosque in Sidon while prayers were being conducted.

Travelers from the south reported that the Israeli occupation forces had staged widescale arrests in different towns of the An-Nabatiyah area. A number of men were also arrested in the town of Ar-Rayhan, which is not far from the site of an explosion that injured a number of Israeli soldiers earlier this week.

Lebanese resistance fighters yesterday launched a rocket and machine gun attack against the positions manned by the collaborating border militias. There were an unknown number of casualties. Security sources indicated that one man was killed and child wounded during the night when an Israeli force manning a roadblock in As-Saksakiyah opened fire on a passing car. The body of the dead man, Zayn Ahmad Dahi, was taken away by the Israeli forces provoking a confrontation between the people of the town and the Israeli forces. A large force surrounded the town at night and arrested a number of men.

VOL Reports Israeli Overflights 2 April

NC021232 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] Following today's operation in Jerusalem, Israeli warplanes overflew Lebanon at noon on reconnaisance flights.

Al-Asad Receives U.S. Governor Atiyeh

JN311451 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] In Damascus, President Hafiz al-Asad today received Victor Atiyeh, governor of the State of Oregon, who was accompanied by his adviser (Samy al-Hal) and the U.S. charge d'affaires in Damascus. The discussion dealt with the situation in the region, U.S.-Syrian relations, and the impressions which Governor Atiyeh formed during his visit to Syria. Governor Atiyeh said he was greatly impressed and moved by the landmarks of progress, development, reconstruction, and civilization which he witnessed in the land of his fathers and forefathers and also the people's solidarity with and sincere love for their leader Hafiz al-Asad, which he felt wherever he went.

The president briefed Governor Atiyeh on the situation in the region and what the United States has done and is doing. He affirmed that the United States cannot play a constructive role in the region when it is absolutely biased toward Israel. The president said: The U.S. Administration has not carried out any commitment or agreement it has pledged. Therefore, we do not have any confidence in its credibility.

The president added: We have explained to the U.S. officials who have come to us that the United States is biased toward Israel and strives to serve Israeli interests and ambitions and not the true national interests of the United States.

The president affirmed our confidence in the future and said: The experience of years of struggle have proven that the use of force can no longer solve present world problems against the interests of nations. The president said: Whoever looks at the future objectively will find that time is in our favor and not in the favor of Israel and its allies.

Commentary Cites Al-Asad

JN011505 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1225 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Struggler Leader Hafiz al-Asad has asserted there is no U.S. policy toward Israel; rather there is an Israeli policy carried out by the United States. When leader Al-Asad asserted this fact, he meant the United States cannot play any objective or positive role based on truth and justice toward the Arab-Israeli dispute.

The United States recognized the Zionist entity the moment it was established. It has always supported this entity with its aggressive presence and has always encouraged it to usurp Arab lands and rights. The U.S. support for Israel has reached a limit that has never been known in the history of international relations, especially after the two parties created the strategic agreement cooperation through which the United States exempted Israel from paying its debts and transformed them into donations. Three days ago, the U.S. House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee recommended a $1.2 billion donation to Israel. All of this aims at guaranteeing the continuation of joint aggressive interests.

At this point, we will not forget the message President Reagan addressed to the U.S. Jews in which he declared that Israel is the first strategic support for the United States, and that U.S. interests are geared to guaranteeing Israeli interests. Neither will we forget to mention the aggressive stand which must be added to the black U.S. record — a stand represented by dispatching forces to Lebanon in order to support the Zionist invaders and to strike at Syria and the Lebanese nationalists. This is in addition to supplying the Zionists with sophisticated weapons as well as economic and financial aid in order to enable them to continue their occupation of the Arab territories, to carry out their aggressive and hostile plans, and to achieve further expansions within the framework of the Zionist plan aimed at establishing a greater Israel, from the Euphrates to the Nile.

This is the United States. This is its policy; and this is its position on the Arab-Israeli dispute. The policy is firm, and the position is unchangeable — absolute enmity to the Arabs, their rights, their interests, and all values of truth and justice; and complete bias toward Israel and the policy of usurpation, coercion, and aggression. This means that the United States does not possess what it should — namely, realizing its responsibilityas a superpower with both political and ethical commitments to help achieve peace in accordance with the principles of truth and logic, and to help curb the forces of tyranny and aggression in the world.

The United States disregarded the UN resolutions, world public opinion, international will, the principles of negotiation, and international norms. It used the veto at the UN Security Council for the sake of Israel to such an extent that observers cannot find dividing lines between U.S. and Israeli policies and interests. Hence, we can understand the statement leader Al-Asad made yesterday that the United States cannot play any constructive role in the region because of its absolute bias toward Israel, and that confidence in U.S. credibility has been lost because it has not carried out any commitment or agreement it has pledged.

What leader Al-Asad said is not only directed at the United States to caution it of its policy's danger to the region's security and peace, but also at its agents in the region who are still wagering on the United States and its allegations. Will they realize before it is too late that this wager will lead to disappointment, loss, and bad consequences?

Al-Asad Receives Senior Soviet Military Adviser

JN312124 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad this evening received General Yashkin, the senior Soviet military adviser in Syria. Vladimir Yukhin, USSR ambassador in Damascus, attended the meeting.

Algerian FLN's Messaadia Arrives 30 Mar

JN301918 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, secretary of the FLN Central Committee's Permanent Secretariat in Algeria, arrived in Damascus with his delegation this evening. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party; Comrade Mit'ib Shinan, the Ba'th Party National Command's reserve member; a number of Ba'th Party members; the Algerian ambassador in Damascus and the embassy staff.

Talks Held

JN311925 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus — Talks began this morning between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party headed by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the party, and the Algerian FLN headed by Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, secretary of the FLN Central Committee's Permanent Secretariat. The talks dealt with the fraternal relations between the two countries and the latest political developments in the region, especially after the victory scored by Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces with the abrogation of the 17 May agreement.

Comrade al-Ahmar referred to the failure of U.S. plans in the region and affirmed that Syria is doing its best to preserve Lebanon's unity, independence, and Arabism. Al-Ahmar also affirmed Syria's commitment to the Palestine question and to the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He noted the importance of Arab-Soviet relations in backing our people's struggle against the imperialist and Zionist forces.

Brother Messaadia gave a detailed reported on the situation in Algeria and praised Syria's heroic role under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad in abrogating the 17 May agreement.

The talks also stressed the need to take measures to develop ties of cooperation between the parties in the two fraternal countries.

Al-Asad Receives Messaadia

JN311907 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] At 2000 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, secretary of the FLN Central Committee's Permanent Secretariat in Algeria. The meeting was attended by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; and Salih Boujoumaa, Algerian ambassador in Damascus.

Messaadia conveyed a message to the president from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. Al-Asad gave him a reply message. This meeting dealt with questions of cooperation between the Ba'th Party and the Algerian FLN, the situation in the region, and issues of mutual concern.

Messaadia Leaves 1 April

JN012056 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1825 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Damascus, 1 Apr (SANA) — Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, secretary of the FLN Central Committee's Permanent Secretariat in Algeria, left Damascus with his accompanying delegation this afternoon following a 3-day visit to Syria during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad.

In his departure statement, Brother Messaadia said: We had the honor to meet President Hafiz al-Asad with whom I reviewed some fateful issues in the Arab arena and some international issues of common interest.

Messaadia added: I conveyed a message to President al-Asad from his brother President Chadli Bendjedid, met with the brothers in the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, held talks that concern the two fraternal parties and countries, drew up a draft working plan for the current year, and exchanged opinions on the issues that serve the interests of our two parties and peoples.

A final meeting was held in Damascus this morning between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation led by Assistant Secretary General of the Ba'th Party Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar and the FLN delegation led by Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, secretary of the FLN Central Committee's Permanent Secretariat in Algeria. During this meeting, the two sides completed their talks, and agreed on the procedural measures for cooperation in 1984 between the two parties in the two fraternal countries.

AL-MUSTAQBAL Carries Khaddam Interview

JN011830 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 31 Mar 84 pp 16-18

[By Marwan al-Mahayni]

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam is to Syrian foreign policy what Andrey Gromyko is to Soviet foreign policy and Sabah al-Ahmad [al-Jabir as-Sabah] is to Kuwaiti policy. They are unique among the world foreign ministers in that they have held the same post for many years. We might need a computer to know the number of people who have held the foreign ministry posts in Washington, London, Paris and the rest of the world's capitals and who have dealt with these three veterans. Khaddam's appointment as President al-Asad's deputy has not changed the nature of his interests and tasks, in which Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs, has helped him during the past 4 years.

However, Abu Jamal [Khaddam] has a long history with the press and with newsmen. He has very little desire to make statements or grant interviews. Even the reports issued from his office on his meetings and daily talks are very few, given that many of these meetings and talks are neither published nor announced. This is why many journalists interested in reports from Damascus have many apprehensions about Abu Jamal's surprises. These journalists wait around the Syrian Foreign Ministry for any visitor in order to learn something about his meeting with Khaddam, taking into consideration the very weak possibility a report on this meeting will be issued. Perhaps *AL-MUSTAQABAL* is one

one of the lucky publications for Khaddam, because it was able to interview him twice in one year. However, it was luckier this time, when it was able to take 2 hours of his time after his lengthy meeting with Walid Junblatt and former Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss. This meeting ended the fighting taking place in West Beirut until last Sunday. *AL-MUSTAQBAL'S* interview with Khaddam also took place a short while before another meeting with a number of leaders from the Palestinian resistance factions.

The meeting was held last Sunday evening after a long day, full of meetings, the most significant of which was a meeting with Nabih Birri and Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri. The Syrian vice president asked me whether I had many or few questions. I gave him a brief idea of them, and I did not say that they were 10 questions. We began our dialogue with a question about the dialogue in Geneva and later in Lausanne, where the results aspired for and expected were not achieved, especially in wake of the Lebanese-Syrian-Arab victory regarding the abrogation of the 17 May agreement and the collapse of the U.S. option.

Khaddam calmly replied: The current dispute in the region is a fateful dispute with historical dimensions. That is why it is only natural that every stage in this dispute has distinct traits and specific elements which must be taken into consideration. If we consider the crisis in Lebanon, the arena of this dispute in recent years, and if we analyze the dimensions of this crisis, we will reach the conclusion that the 17 May agreement was a stage leading to other stages in order to end the Lebanese crisis. It is only natural to say that the intricate and complex crisis in Lebanon — given that it reflects on the one hand the Lebanese domestic situation and on the other had the current dispute raging in the region — would make it very improbable that astonishing results would be reached in only one round of national dialogue. There was a great gap between the Lebanese people's aspirations and what the Lausanne National Dialogue Conference could achieve, because the conference was not prepared for them as it should have been and the attitude with which we entered the conference could have been different. We entered the conference with our minds bent on the need to achieve national dialogue. The various viewpoints were submitted, and they turned out to be in contradiction and completely different from one another.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Have you not taken the obstacles into account?

Khaddam: Since the decision to convene the Lausanne conference, we have understood the nature of the obstacles it would face. The following are some of these obstacles:

1. The Israeli factor. The Israelis were very disappointed as a result of the abrogation of the 17 May agreement. We can even say that they have experienced a big political defeat, the first of its kind since 1948. Therefore, we expected the Israelis to try to foil the conference to stop the course of events that move against their interests, and to tell the Lebanese: We are able to foil the Arab option, just as Syria is able to foil the Israeli option.

2. The U.S. factor. U.S. policy in the Middle East was also defeated in Lebanon after the Amercians tried to persuade the Lebanese regime of their ability to perform wondrous things and to change Syria's position. It is natural for the Americans to try to foil the Arab option in Lebanon, because the success of that option will affect not only Lebanon, but also the entire region. This success will be a beginning for the recession of U.S. hegemony over this sensitive region of the world.

3. Some Arabs were shocked by the abrogation of the 17 May agreement. They also experienced some fear and anxiety because the abrogation of the agreement foiled the settlement they were seeking, whether on the basis of the Camp David accords or the Reagan peace plan. The Israelis should learn a lesson about concluding agreements at the expense of the Arabs and about the possibility of these agreements' continuing when the balance of powers in the region improves in favor of the Arabs — namely, the improvement of Syrian military ability.

4. Some Lebanese sides fear peace, because of their interests that emerged during the civil war. These interests are material and political ones that will collapse as soon as national accord succeeds and a national unity government is established. This is because such a government will deprive them of what they have taken from the country and of what they are trying to impose on the citizens. In other words, all the illegitimate statelets will collapse in favor of the state of national unity. Some other sides are cautious and fearful as a result of the pain from and the possible effect of the state of peace on some of them.

5. The nature of the conflict's complications in Lebanon, and the link between the external and internal factors and how they reflect on the parties in the conflict. All of these factors were clear to us. Therefore, we were aware of the great difficulties the conference woudl face and the great outcome that Lebanon and the Arabs would achieve if dialogue between the Lebanese parties succeeded. Therefore, we concentrated our efforts on reaching a common ground that might not form a complete solution to the crisis in Lebanon but would constitute a framework for a solution from which all parties could benefit. Through discussions with the various parties, we managed to work out a document on which we and President Amin al-Jumayyil agreed in principle. This document is based on the following principles:

A. Achieving balances and equal participation in the government.

B. Beginning to move from the phase of factional affiliation to affiliation to the homeland.

C. Dealing with the situation of the Army and the Armed Forces as well as with the security situation.

D. Dealing with the problem of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon.

The Syrian side has exerted great efforts in order to persuade the concerned parties. President Amin al-Jumayyil also exerted similar efforts, and we entered the conference hall with a certain amount of optimism. However, that optimism collapsed when we began to discuss the document. During the conference, we felt that the conference would fail and that dialogue was being undermined. Therefore, we took actions to not close the doors, and we agreed to issue the final statement. There are two important points in this statement: First, reaching unanimous agreement that the formula of the existing rule in Lebanon is no longer suitable and a new constitution for the Lebanon of the future should be reached. Second, the need to solve the security issue by drawing up a security plan in which all parties will participate and by creating a quiet atmosphere in which the parties can review their positions. In other words, I can say the Lausanne conference has not succeeded, but neither has it failed. There are some doors still open. Syria will continue its efforts through the various channels in order to enable the Lebanese brothers to overcome the difficulties and obstacles facing the march of accord and national unity.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: What is your opinion of Junblatt's latest statements on holding a dialogue with the forces on the ground?

Khaddam: Many members of the conference said that they do not represent the forces on the ground. It seems as if there are two generations — one defending its past, and the other looking toward its future. Hence, an agreement was reached outside the conference hall in Lausanne to look for new channels among the various disputing forces. This is what Junblatt meant. The existing formula in Lebanon is not longer suitable, and all the parties agreed on this. In more precise words, we cannot say that the conference achieved the objective the Lebanese sought. However, the conference did not close the door. Syria is determined to continue exerting its efforts so that the door will remain open and the Lebanese achieve national accord. We consider this to be a vital matter not only for Lebanon, but also for Syria and the Arabs. Therefore, an agreement was reached with President Al-Jumayyil and the Lebanese parties to continue the dialogue with a new and quiet method. I believe that we will achieve satisfactory results.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Would you assess the positions of those participating in the dialogue?

Khaddam: In Lausanne, there was the generation defending its past, thereby defending itself; and the generation defending its future, thereby trying to create themselves. I do not want here to point to this or that person and their roles. However, I honestly would like to say that the new generation tried hard to convince the old generation of the need to accept the fact that the new generation should decide the future of Lebanon. The discussions dealt objectively with this dispute, although they revolved around the concept of building a new Lebanon. Some presented a plan to rebuild Lebanon on a federal basis. This plan was presented by the Lebanese Front, whose representatives did not enthusiastically defend their plan. This matter is considered a positive point. Others presented a plan to cancel political sectarianism on the basis of achieving equal rights and duties of the Lebanese in their assumption of responsibilities. Some parties faced this plan proceeding from the need to continue with the existing formula and to make some formal changes which will not deal with the crux of the problem. At this point, the discussion evolved into one between a party which believes it does not participate in the rule and calls for a new formula in order to do so in view of the fact that one provision of the constitution says the president of the republic exercises executive authority with the help of the ministers. Others believe that this provision places the state's political decisionmaking solely in the hands of the president of the republic. Consequently, they request that the Council of Ministers must be the higher executive and administrative authority in the country; that this council must comprise the president of the republic, the prime minister, and the ministers; and that this council assume power instead of confining it solely to the president of the republic. In fact, there was a sharp difference of viewpoints, and the conference was not able to reach an agreement in this respect. Other differences involved canceling factionalism in the government, in its civilian and military institutions, and in the House of Deputies. Other party believed that factionalism should be mitigated, but not canceled. We spent 10 days in Lausanne, and the dialogue revolved around the past. Regrettably, it did not proceed from the need to look toward the future.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Why did you not impose a solution?

Khaddam: This question was asked in Lausanne, and may be asked here: Why did you not try to impose a formula leading to achieving accord? Our answer is that Lebanon must reconcile, and the Lebanese parties must coexist despite all the Lebanese sufferings. We believe that achieving this conviction through direct dialogue will be of great benefit. However, a stage will come in which we and the Lebanese will find it difficult to continue with this situation and to accept the contining fighting and state of fragmentation from which the enemies of Lebanon, Syria, and the Arabs — the foremost of which is Israel — will benefit. We will exert every possible effort to achieve reconciliation through many channels. We must say that success must be a decisive and inevitable matter.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Why did all these events take place in Beirut in the wake of Lausanne?

Khaddam: Since we are seeking to achieve accord and reconciliation among all the disputing parties in Lebanon — some of which have carried arms against us and others of which have sought to harm us — it would be natural for us to say that we cannot be satisifed if a rift occurs in an arena with which we are linked by many objectives. What took place in West Beirut was caused by a return to the methods in practice in the previous stage and to the mentality of some which has been prevailing for the past 10 years. Nabih Birri, Walid Junblatt, and other figures from West Beirut agreed here in Damascus last February to withdraw the armed elements and to let the Army and the internal security forces assume the responsibility of safeguarding security in West Beirut. The Amal Movement and the Progressive Socialist Party abided by this agreement, and Birri issued a statement calling on the Army units in West Beirut to assume their responsibilities. However, some other parties did not abide by it. Attempts to sow sectarian differences among the Muslims began. This precisely conforms with what can be called a plan to partition Lebanon into sectarian cantons. This matter clashes with our gradual, general principles and objectives. This state of affairs caused the recent events in West Beirut.

A delegation from West Beirut led by Dr Salim al-Huss and Walid Junblatt reached an agreement in my office today, Sunday, to implement the February agreement to which I referred, to have the Army and internal security forces assume responsibility for security, and to withdraw the armed elements. This is not a new stand by Junblatt, as he always used to voice his fears about the possible dangers from the continued presence of armed elements in the streets. We must stress here that any attempt to play the game on a sectarian basis will clash with the national will of all the Lebanese, whether they are Christians or Muslims.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: What possibilities are there for resuming dialogue with the Lebanese Front, specifically with the Phalangists, particularly as some continue to contact Israel?

Khaddam: We are seeking to establish national accord in Lebanon, and national accord must take place among all disputing parties in the Lebanese arena. How can accord be attained if we close the door in the face of this or that Lebanese party? We believe that the best way to close any window through which the Israelis can infiltrate is to achieve national accord on national and clear foundations based on Lebanon's unity, independence, and Arab affiliation. In short, national accord must be achieved not among parties on the same team, but among the disputing parties. As long as national accord continues to be a strategic objective for Syria, it must not close the door on anyone if this constitutes an important positive factor in attaining that objective.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: How will you help Lebanon to get the Israelis to withdraw?

Khaddam: The 17 May agreement is as much a Lebanese victory and gain for the Lebanese people as it is a gain for Syria and the Arab nation. This abrogation is a prelude to comprehensive liberation. It contributes to the return of dialogue, which in its turn is the course for achieving the Lebanese people's unity and an introduction to putting the Lebanese problem caused by the Israeli occupation in its proper context. Syria will use all of its resources and capabilities to assist Lebanon. The instructions which President Hafiz al-Asad gave me before I left for Lausanne were that I must do my best to render the conference a success, as this success would be an essential step on the road to Lebanon's liberation from Israeli occupation. We will provide the Lebanese brothers with all possible help in order to liberate Lebanon, and we are confident that it will be liberated from the Israeli occupation.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: President al-Jumayyil stated that Lebanon will carry out security arrangements with Israel. Do you approve such arrangements?

Khaddam: When it decided to abrogate the 17 May agreement, the Lebanese Government said that it would carry out measures to safeguard the sovereignty of the Lebanese state and to achieve the Israeli withdrawal. We understood that the national unity government to be entrusted with the task of carrying out such measures will not adopt arrangements that conflict with Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, or the Lebanese state's legitimate right to complete sovereignty over its territory. It would be unfair to say yes or no before knowing what these arrangements will be.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: What about Jordan? Do not King Husayn's recent statements constitute an introduction to a resumption of normal relations with Jordan?

Khaddam: There are some ambiguities in our relations with Jordan. We hope that King Husayn's recent statements will materialize into a practical policy.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Recently, President al-Asad spoke about Arab solidarity. What concept does Syria have of the form this solidarity will take in the next stage?

Khaddam: The Arab situation is very bad, and there are large Arab divisions. Consequently, the threats posed to the Arab nation are many and grave. First of all, Arab governments must agree on the nature of these dangers and their objective, as there is no serious agreement on this. When the nature and objectives of these dangers are specified, we can determine who is the enemy and who is the friend and what position we must adopt toward them. Solidarity in itself is not an objective but a means. As Arabs, we must first of all come to an agreement on the objective. This will facilitate an agreement on the means. Since the corrective movement in November 1970, Syria has considered Arab solidarity the cornerstone of its Arab policy. It will not give it up as a means for attaining clear pan-Arab objectives. I believe that we have succeeded in conveying the importance of the means since the early 1970's, when solidarity played an important role in creating the atmosphere which helped in waging the October war. When the means are used to attain other objectives, then it will be difficult to dissociate between means and the objective.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: President Mubarak sent more than one cable of congratulations to President al-Asad. They were made public in Cairo, but not in Damascus. Most of the Egyptian media speak about specific contacts between the two countries, the most recent being that Usamah al-Baz had visited Damascus in secret and that contacts in one way or the other have not been suspended.

Khaddam: Usamah al-Baz paid no visits to Syria. The obstacle which stands between us and the Egyptian regime continues to exist. It is Camp David and what resulted from it. We are eager for Egypt to have its normal place and to assume its pan-Arab responsibilities. This wish, however, imposes on the regime in Egypt elimination of all that prevents it from assuming its responsibilities and regaining its position in pan-Arab action. The doors are open for the Egyptian regime to return. It must draw the necessary conclusions and learn lessons from the abrogation of the 17 May agreement in Lebanon. Lebanon, the little brother which has been torn apart by the civil war and which suffered from the yoke of the 17 May agreement, has succeeded in breaking this chain. The situation in Egypt is different. Our brothers in Egypt are not suffering from what our Lebanese brothers are suffering from, thank God. Egypt is a big power and possesses great potential that would enable it to extricate itself from Camp David and the Egyptian-Israeli treaty. What we know about our people in Egypt and about President Husni Mubarak personally makes us hope that the regime will take the initiative to make the required historical decision.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: President al-Asad's recent directives were that each ministry must separately take into consideration the question of how to further promote Syrian-USSR relations in all fields. Is this a new trend?

Khaddam: The USSR is a friendly state. Our relations with it have developed over many years and through many experiences. The USSR proved to be a country committed to its obligations and principles. It stood at our side and offered us assistance and support against the Israeli aggression and U.S. hegemony. The question of developing relations with the USSR is a national issue for Syria, because Syria is currently assuming the burden of defending the Arabs' existence and future against the aggressive Israeli presence. The development of our defense capabilities as well as the assistance and support of a big power such as the USSR serve our national and pan-Arab objectives. From this premise appears the importance of strengthening our relations as two friendly countries.

Foreign Minister Ash-Shar' Rules Out Partition

NC010722 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' has stated that the plan to partition Lebanon has ended forever.

In an interview to be published by *MONDAY MORNING* in tomorrow's edition, Ash-Shar' says this is the time for agreement. He adds the belief that Lebanon's partition is merely a Lebanese affair is incorrect. He stresses that Syria will confront the partition the same way it confronted the 17 May agreement.

Ash-Shar' emphasizes that what Israel says today becomes U.S. policy tomorrow. He adds, however, that Washington coats what Israel says with sugar to make it palatable to the Arabs.

Ash-Shar' stresses that the Syrian mission is necessary in order to help the brothers in Lebanon reach agreement. He declares that President al-Asad will do his utmost and that he is determined to end the crisis in Lebanon.

Notes Syrian Role in Lausanne

NC011430 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' has stated that the National Dialogue Conference in Lausanne has proven the Syrian Mission in Lebanon is necessary to help the [Lebanese] brothers achieve national reconciliation and national sovereignty and unity. He said that Syria too has an interest in this.

In an interview to be published by the *MONDAY MORNING* magazine in Beirut tomorrow, Ash-Shar' added that Israel covets Lebanon, and this is substantiated by [former] Israeli Prime Minister Moshe Sharit's memorandums in the 1950's.

Ash-Shar' said that Damascus did not expect the Lausanne conference to resolve in 8 days the Lebanese problem that has been going on for 9 years now. He said: We in Syria are not pessimistic, and the Lebanese must agree sooner or later on ending the U.S.-Israeli interference in Lebanon's affairs.

The new Syrian foreign minister said that the abrogation of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement enabled Lebanon to survive and provided the Lebanese with an opportunity to reach agreement. Ash-Shar' said that [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah did not behave in Damascus as one outside the National Salvation Front. Statements about the formation of a new opposition front are premature conclusions by the press.

TISHRIN Calls for Stabilizing Lebanese Cease-fire

JN301322 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0742 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus, 30 Mar (SANA) — In its commentary today, the Syrian paper *TISHRIN* called for halting the deteriorating security situation in Lebanon and the indiscriminate shelling of civilian areas because this totally conflicts with the spirit that dominated the Lausanne conference, the principles adopted, and the road paved to rescue Lebanon.

Under the headline "The Dialogue Requires Stabilizing Cease-fire," *TISHRIN* emphasizes that those escalating the security situation with their use of shells and rockets are actually seeking to undermine the Lausanne results and are implementing an Israeli plan. Thus, they are trying to undermine the Arab option on which all disputed parties agreed. The paper notes that the Lebanese national dialogue has proven to be viable at both Geneva and Lausanne, and that the Lebanese politicians have reached the conviction that the path of the dialogue is the path of salvation.

TISHRIN says: If we start from this fact — salvation through dialogue — all those concerned about Lebanon, its future, and its stability must also be concerned about stabilizing the cease-fire, clearing the air in order to push the course of salvation foward, and translating the Lebanese people's aspirations into a new political reality in which fear would be discarded and the coercion imposed on certain parties removed. Through this dialogue, the Lebanese institutions will be purged of all sectarian impurities so that every Lebanese citizen will be free and sovereign in his own country, and so that everyone can participate in the political, social, and cultural life and interact with his Arab environment.

TISHRIN explains that the enemies of the dialogue — the enemies of Lebanon — are the Israelis and their agents, who have not yet abandoned their expansionist designs and sectarian mini-states. These are the parties responsible for the current indiscriminate shelling and the deteriorating security situation. The paper adds: The task of rescuing Lebanon has made large strides on the correct path. Thus, the issue must not be diverted from this path after success has been almost within our grasp.

Concluding, *TISHRIN* affirms that those who are concerned about Lebanon — especially Syria — will not allow those who are playing with fire and wreaking havoc with security to pursue their plotting. This is because Lebanon's salvation is that of all the Arabs, and the victory of the Arab option in Lebanon means the failure of the U.S.-Israeli option in the region.

Reportage on 2 April Jerusalem Terrorist Attack

TA020836 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] A short time ago, there was an explosion in the corner of Yafo and King George Streets in Jerusalem. There were casualties. Five people with slight injuries were transferred to the nearby Biqur Holim Hospital. Others were transferred to the Sha'are Tzedeq Hospital. A Magen David Adom intensive care unit is currently treating four wounded people at the site. A mobile first aid station was also sent to the site to treat casualties in the site. Our correspondents have also rushed to the scene and we are waiting for their reports.

Shopowner Describes Incident

TA020915 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Shots were fired at passersby on King George Street in downtown Jerusalem and some of them were wounded. Later, an Egged bus at the intersection of Yafo and King George Streets was attacked with grenades. Our correspondent Yosi Qoren reports that 26 people have been taken to the Biqur Holim, Sha'are Tzedeq and Hadassah Hospitals so far. They were wounded by shrapnel and bullets. The security forces dispersed the crowd at the site and took control of the situation. The owner of a sporting goods shop in downtown Jerusalem told our correspondent Yosi Qoren about the beginning of the attack:

[Begin recording of unidentified shopowner] Two young men came into the shop to try on jeans. One of them went into the fitting room, and the second one threatened my employee with an Uzi submachinegun. I thought it was a toy gun. He then stepped outside and we began hearing the shots. He could actually have started firing inside the shop, but he began shooting outside. Then both of them stepped outside and we heard the shots and the grenades exploding. This is all we know. [end recording]

Some of the people were transferred to the Sha'are Tzedeq Hospital. The director of the surgery ward, Dr Alexander Steiner, told us that most of the people sustained slight injuries. Just now, our correspondent Avshalom Ginosar reports that the police have reopened all of Yafo Street and the northern part of Strauss Street to traffic.

PFLP Claims Responsibility

TA021022 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1014 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] George Habash's organization, the PFLP, has assumed responsibility for the terrorist attack in Jerusalem. The PFLP spokesman in Damascus announced a short time ago that members of the Sabra and Shatila squad who, according to him, operate in the occupied territories perpetrated the attack. The terrorists' spokesman noted that their purpose was to seize hostages and negotiate their release in exchange for terrorists held in Israeli prisons. The announcement of the PFLP spokesman was monitored by our correspondent Eldad Bek from Damascus Radio.

DFLP Also Takes Responsibility

TA021054 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1042 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Excerpt] The police are holding the three terrorists who perpetrated the attack in Jerusalem. One of the three was killed. This was reported by our police affairs correspondent.

Nayif Hawatimah's organization, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has assume responsibility for the terrorist attack. The DFLP spokesman in Damascus announced a short time ago that members of the Sabra and Shatila squad who, according to him, operate in the occupied territories perpetrated the attack.

Police Communique Released

TA021115 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] Three terrorists who this morning attacked pedestrians on King George Street in central Jerusalem were captured. One of them is seriously injured. This is stated in an official communique issued by the police, who also say that 48 people were injured in the attack, of whom five are in serious condition. The wounded were transferred to the Biqur Holim, Sha'are Tzedeq and Hadassah-Mt Scopus hospitals.

All that is known about the events connected with the attack is that a few minutes before 1000 the terrorists came to King George Street and began shooting at passersby, and attacked a shop and an Egged bus with hand grenades. Civilians and soldiers who happened to be in the area shot back at them. One of the terrorists was subsequently seriously injured. He and two of his colleagues were captured. Of the passersby, 48 people were injured, and 5 of them are in serious condition. Some other people were slightly injured, received treatment at the site by Magen David Adom personnel and were discharged.

Kollek Reacts; Shamir Briefed

TA021138 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] Jerusalem's Mayor Teddy Kollek has condemned the attack. He told reporter Jack Katzenell he believed the background was the world's political situation as it affects Jerusalem:

[Begin Kollek recording] The fact that the problem of Jerusalem has come up in the Congress of the United States, with arguments over relations with Jordan and other neighboring countries, probably encourages the terrorist organizations to more action in order to prove that they exist, and that they should be, that they want to express their opposition, their constructive way of dealing with the problem of Israel. [end recording]

Mayor Kollek said the fact that President Reagan would veto the congressional move would only show Israel's political weakness, but the Senators and Congressmen who proposed to move the American Embassy to Jerusalem are morally in the right, said Kollek, and the United States ought to have done this long ago. The mayor also said the attack strengthened Israel's resolve to go on building its capital in Jerusalem. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, attending a meeting of the Israel Army General staff in Tel Aviv, received constant briefings on the attack.

U.S. 'Friends' Urged To Tone Down Embassy Campaign

TA010537 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Officials in Jerusalem are considering asking Israel's friends in Washington to tone down the campaign to move the American Embassy to Jerusalem. This is to avoid a veto of the bill before Congress by President Reagan. Instead the efforts would be directed at putting the American Consulate in East Jerusalem under the authority of the Embassy in Tel Aviv. At present the consulate in Jerusalem has an independent status.

Compromise on Embassy Denied

TA010719 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] The prime minister's office denies that Israel is considering the possibility of hinting to its friends in the U.S. Congress to compromise on the issue of their initiative to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. The denial says that the stand of Israel is known: Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, with all that this implies. Earlier this morning our political correspondent reported that Israel might hint to members of Congress to freeze their initiative of moving the embassy to Jerusalem in order to prevent a veto by President Reagan. It was also reported that the Israeli ambassador in Washington, Me'ir Rosenne, is against any compromise, and is firm in his intention to continue supporting the initiative of Israel's friends in Congress.

U.S. Compromise Seen

TA020735 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] A compromise is emerging in Washington between senators who are friends of Israel and the Reagan administration over the demand to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, and to forbid by U.S. law contacts between the administration and the PLO. A decision will be made this week about the transfer of the embassy.

Our correspondent Razi Barqay has been told that Congress has been considering a compromise according to which a draft law about the transfer of the embassy would not be brought up, but that this demand would be raised in a joint letter of both houses of Congress.

This letter would have only a declarative effect, and it would not be binding on the President. Israel's friends in the Senate emphasized that they would be ready to accept this compromise after they collected the signatures of most members of Congress in favor of transferring the embassy.

Papers on U.S. Embassy, Husayn Negotiations

TA020738 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT 2 Apr 84

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] Referring to the transfer of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, *THE JERUSALEM POST* notes the precedent that the United States has an embassy in East Berlin although it does not recognize East Germany's sovereignty over the city. Using this precedent, it is argued in the United States that it could move its embassy to the western part of Jerusalem and announce that the final status of the city should be left to negotiations, that Jerusalem should remain united and that there should be free access to the holy places. The move would please Israel, but not the Arabs; the declaration would please the Arabs, but not Israel; and the United States would be off the hook. Beyond the atmosphere of U.S. elections, that at least is an argument worthy of attention.

DAVAR says that Jordanian King Husayn's favorable reaction to Shim'on Peres's remarks, that if the Alignment were to win the elections it would be willing to discuss peace arrangements even outside the framework of the Camp David accords, is not yet a commitment he can make good on. A king who has succeeded in keeping his throne more than any of his rivals in both the radical and conservative camps will probably not rush to jump into cold water without guaranteeing the support of additional Arab elements. His remarks may also be denied, but the very fact that he made them to the *TIME* magazine correspondent at the end of the successful visit of the British queen in Amman, shows that he is aware of the significant differences between the policies of the current Israeli Government and that of the Alignment, between the striving for a de facto annexation and the willingness to make real concessions in exchange for peace and safe borders. Consequently, it seems that what has broadly been termed as the Jordanian option is not an empty formula.

U.S. Opposed to Law Banning Contacts With PLO

TA301244 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 Mar 84 p 1

[Report from Washington by 'Oded Granot]

[Text] Yesterday the U.S. Administration expressed firm opposition to the draft law emerging in the Senate to ban any contacts between the United States and the PLO. A similar proposal has recently been approved by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives at the initiative of California Representative Mel Levin.

The proposal was intended to give the validity of law to the understanding reached between the United States and Israel in 1975 whereby the United States undertook not to hold any contacts with the PLO.

The Reagan administration promised Israel to fulfill this commitment in deed but Israeli circles in Washington view the administration's opposition to the draft law as a desire to maintain the "open door" policy for a possible dialogue with the PLO in the future.

Accounting for their opposition to the draft law, administration representatives claimed that such a law may create undesirable obstacles in case it might be urgently necessary to talk with the PLO, for example, when hostages need to be rescued.

Schiffer Report on 1 April Cabinet Session

TA011138 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Shim'on Schiffer report from prime minister's office in Jerusalem]

[Text] The Cabinet session is now ending and the ministers are making their way to their offices. Here at the prime minister's office, Deputy Prime Minister David Levi and the prime minister remained to discuss the issue that has already been mentioned and is now finally being addressed: whether David Levi will be a candidate for the leadership of the Likud list and, perhaps, a candidate for the premiership after the coming election. This issue is now being discussed at a meeting between the two.

As for the Cabinet session, Defense Minister Moshe Arens reviewed various matters involving Lebanon. There were angry verbal exchanges at the Cabinet session between Minister Without Portfolio Ari'el Sharon and several of his colleagues. Minister Sharon claimed that he has demanded 27 times that the Cabinet hold a comprehensive debate on the situation and policy in Lebanon, but there has been no such discussion to date. The prime minister answered that he had permitted the ministers to ask questions and express their views and the Cabinet held discussions on Lebanon almost every week. But Minister Ari'el Sharon thinks that a comprehensive discussion by the Cabinet on all the issues involving Lebanon has not been held.

Another matter that arose today at the beginning of the Cabinet session was the appointment of the Broadcasting Authority's new board of directors, and here, too, there were some echoes of the approaching election. Minister Aharon Uzan was angry that TAMI's representative, Shalom Danino, was not elected to the board of directors and he claimed that TAMI was being punished for having proposed early elections. To this, Minister Yosef Burg answered: Indeed, since the government has not reached the end of its term in office, 4 years, the coalition agreement also no longer exists.

These are the first details from the Cabinet session. If and when we have further details we will report again.

[Studio announcer] One more question, Shim'on: Did the issue of the transfer of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem come up?

[Schiffer] It is not yet known whether that issue was mentioned at the Cabinet session. The Cabinet held several discussions today that were in the framework of the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs and devoted a long time to this, but we still do not know whether that issue was raised.

Broadcasting Authority Appointments

TA011757 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] At the beginning of its weekly meeting this morning, the Cabinet approved new appointments to the board of directors of the Israel Broadcasting Authority. The chairman is Mikha Yinon; the deputy chairman is David Admon; and the members of board are: Natan Brun, Qari'el Gardosh, 'Amiram Nir, Sha'ul Amur, and Yisra'el Peleg.

Embassy Move Discussed

TA011800 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel — recorded]

[Excerpts] During the Cabinet meeting, the prime minister totally denied the reports that Israel is now recommending a compromise, as it were, over the issue of moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. In this context he also reviewed the positions of the American Democratic Party hopefuls — Hart and Mondale — as well as U.S. congressional actions.

During the meeting, Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg reviewed Land Day events, stating that this year it was relatively quiet.

The Cabinet, meeting as the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs, discussed the actions that have been taken to enable Jews from countries of distress to immigrate to Israel.

Minister Moda'i asked what Israel knows about the reports that a German company has supplied Iraq with equipment to help it produce nerve gas in its fertilizer factories. Prime Minister Shamir said in reaction to this that the Israeli Embassy in Bonn has been instructed to verify these reports.

Cabinet Briefed on Gulf

TA011548 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Israel is checking reports to the effect that a German company has sold equipment for the production of gas bombs [petzatzot gas] to an Iraqi fertilizer factory and that Iraq may have used these bombs in the Persian Gulf war. This was stated by Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor following the Cabinet meeting. According to Meridor, the Cabinet was briefed today on the Iran-Iraq war.

CIA Reports on Iraqi Chemical Weapons Cited

TA011703 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Report from Berlin by Roni Bornstein — recorded]

[Text] The media in Germany have given wide coverage to CIA reports that the Iraqis are manufacturing Tabun gas with the assistance of a German company. Circles within the CIA and the

U.S. Departments of State and Defense have stated that within a matter of weeks Iraq will have at its disposal additional chemical weapons to use against Iran.

Tabun gas was developed in Germany in 1936 and is relatively easy to produce. According to the reports, the German concern of Karl Kolb, located in a small town near Frankfurt, has been supplying equipment and technical know-how for the production of this nerve gas for the past 2 years. Company director Dieter (Backfisch) confirmed that his company has supplied an experimental facility that could produce small quantities of dangerous chemical weapons. The equipment, which was supplied by an affiliated company called Pilot Plant is merely laboratory equipment for analysis purposes, the director said. The production of mustard gas by means of this equipment is virtually impossible.

This equipment was supplied in January and therefore, according to him, the system is not yet operative. The Karl Kolb concern, and its affiliate, Pilot Plant, maintain long-standing commercial ties with Iraq. The system was sold to the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

Plans To Destroy Iraqi Chemical Plants Discussed

JN301612 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] A U.S. Administration source has said that officials in the administration have expressed hope in private conversations that Israel would destroy the industries which the Iraq Army has built for the production of chemical weapons.

This source told *THE NEW YORK TIMES* that the U.S. Army was requested to study a plan to attack the Iraqi industries and that after completing this study the U.S. Army commanders informed the U.S. Administration that these industries could not be destroyed.

This U.S. Administration source said that the U.S. Army commanders suggested that the Israeli Air Force may be able to carry out this mission.

The White House and the U.S. Department of State have declined to comment on the statements which the U.S. Administration source made to *THE NEW YORK TIMES* in Washington.

Citing sources in the Department of State, the Department of Defense, and U.S. intelligence, *THE NEW YORK TIMES* said that Iraq has five fortified underground plants, which would enable Iraq in the next few weeks or months to launch a large-scale attack with chemical weapons against Iran.

Citing U.S. intelligence sources, *THE NEW YORK TIMES* said that Iraq had purchased laboratory equipment from an FRG company to produce chemical weapons. This equipment was sold with the approval of the Bonn government. However, the FRG company did not know that this equipment would be used in producing chemical weapons.

Action Against Iraq Doubted

TA010809 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Apr 84 pp 1, 2

[Report from Washington by Wolf Blitzer]

[Excerpts] The State Department has publicly denied a report that the U.S. and Israel discussed the feasibility of an Israeli air strike to knock out an Iraqi chemical weapons factory.

On Friday, the State Department's spokesman, John Hughes, and the department's deputy director of political/military affairs, Robert Dean, went to great lengths to insist there is no consideration being given to either an American or Israeli strike.

Israeli officials here expressed strong doubt that Israel would take the lead in seeking a military solution to Iraq's introduction of chemical weapons.

Herut Leadership Contest Set for 12 April

TA011405 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1347 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] The contest to elect Herut's candidate for prime minister will be held on 12 April. This was decided in talks held by Herut ministers a short while ago.

At this meeting Minister Ari'el Sharon made it clear that he is determined to take part in the contest.

Deputy Prime Minister David Levi said that he is still considering the matter and will announce his decision most probably by tomorrow. Before the meeting of the Herut ministers, Prime Minister Shamir and David Levi met privately. This report was filed by our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel.

Rabin Will Not Contest Labor Party Leadership

TA301242 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] There will be no contest for the leadership of the Labor Party. Yitzhaq Rabin announced a short time ago that he would not contest the Labor Party's leadership in view of Yitzhaq Navon's announcement and the atmosphere prevailing in the party in favor of closing ranks and against an internal contest.

Labor Party Secretary Hayim Bar-Lev said: Everything has been concluded now and when the party institutions convene, Shim'on Peres is expected to be elected the Alignment's candidate to the premiership.

Yitzhaq Rabin firmly rejected the criticism leveled against a contest within the Labor Party. According to him, a negative view of such a contest has been nurtured in the last few years and this is not a good development because a contest is a democratic process of choice. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav points out that there is a feeling of relief in the Labor Party in the wake of the decision by Navon and Rabin not to contest the leadership.

Navon Clarifies Call for Party Forum

TA011837 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Yitzhaq Navon has denied making a statement calling for the establishment of a Labor Party forum which would call on party leader Shim'on Peres to step down. The denial was issued this afternoon in reaction to a story in the afternoon newspaper *YEDI'OT AHARONOT*.

The former president said he did in fact call for the setting up of a party forum, to gauge the popularity of the candidates for high positions. He said such a forum should decide on the party leadership position, adding that such decisions should not be left to be made by individuals.

Agreement Reached on Settlement Initiative

TA301306 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 Mar 84 p 3

[Report by Yosef Tzuri'el]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad and the head of the Jewish Agency Settlement Department, Matityahu Drobles, concluded that before the impending Knesset elections, it will be necessary to strengthen 20 new settlements and lay the foundations for 12 observation posts in the Judaea and Samaria area at a total cost of about 1.25 billion shekels. Involved are about 20 new settlements which currently have between 5 to 20 housing units only. It is proposed that each settlement be expanded to contain at least 35 housing units. The plan also suggests the establishment of 12 observation posts in northern Samaria, in the Shilo area, and in the southern Hebron hills. Each observation posts will have 15 housing units as well as public buildings.

Two Katyushas Launched From Southern Lebanon

TA011513 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] It has just been reported that two Katyushas were launched at noon from southern Lebanon, from the area of the village of Al-'Udaysah which is opposite Kibbutz Misgav 'Am. There were no casualties. Our correspondent Gabi Zohar reports that they were 107-mm Katyushas. An IDF force is continuing combing operations.

Further Report

TA011544 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Report by correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz — recorded]

[Text] At noon two explosions were heard near the village of Al-'Udaysah in southern Lebanon. After searching for several hours, one of the southern Lebanese army soldiers informed the IDF command that he had discovered a 107-mm Katyusha and another Katyusha nearby that had exploded. Numerous IDF forces, including southern Lebanese army soldiers, began searching the southern Lebanon area. It should be noted that the Katyushas landed near the village of Al-'Udaysah, which is not far from Kibbutz Misgav 'Am. The intention of the terrorists was apparently to hit the Galilee Panhandle settlements.

In another area in Lebanon, an IDF patrol was traveling through Sidon at noon. A terrorist squad, which was hidden at the side of the road in the An-Najmah Square, detonated a bomb when the patrol approached the area. Two soldiers were wounded in the explosion. They were given first aid and were transferred to Rambam hospital in Haifa by helicopter. IDF forces imposed a curfew [hesger] on the area and began searches.

IDF Shells Northern Al-Biqa' Region

TA011713 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] This afternoon IDF artillery shelled terrorist targets in the northern Al-Biqa' region, south of Barr Ilyas. The IDF spokesman announces that two terrorist commands, which served as bases for terrorist activity, were shelled. The IDF spokesman's anncouncement states that in recent weeks terrorist activity from Syrian-controlled areas against IDF forces in the eastern sector has increased. Eight IDF soldiers were wounded in a series of recent incidents in this sector.

Soviets Concerned Over Power Struggle in Syria

JN012150 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 1 Apr 84

[From "With the Events"]

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has received a senior Soviet military adviser amid reports on the Kremlin leaders' concern over the security of the Soviet advisers due to the power struggle in Syria. More in the following report by (Ya'kov Catser):

Diplomatic sources in the Syrian capital said that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's meeting with General Yashkin, the senior Soviet military adviser in Syria, and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus was aimed at assuring the Kremlin leaders on the future of the Soviet military advisers in Syria. The diplomatic sources added that President al-Asad has personally guaranteed the security and safety of those advisers.

The Soviet leaders had expressed their concern over the future of those advisers due to the recent power struggle in Damascus between the Syrian president's brother, Rif'at al-Asad, and his opponents in the Syrian Army. The diplomatic sources said that President al-Asad asked Gen Yashkin to convey this personal commitment to the Kremlin leaders in Moscow when he returns to the Soviet capital.

Observers believe that in light of the Syrian president's deteriorating health, Soviet concern over the involvement of the Soviet advisers has increased because of the whirlpool of struggle over power among Rif'at al-Asad; General 'Ali Haydar, commander of the commando forces; and General Muhammad al-Khuli, chief of intelligence in the Syrian Air Force. The number of the Soviet military advisers is estimated at 6,000. These experts are spread throughout various Syrian Armed Forces organs.

Rumsfeld-Kimche Discuss Lebanon Border Negotiations

TA301204 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 30 Mar 84 p 1

[Report by Jerusalem political correspondent]

[Text] There is no real element that can presently bring Israel and Lebanon to the negotiating table over security arrangements in the northern border when the Lebanese Government cannot even maintain order within Beirut itself, where exchanges of fire continue.

This was learned in the meeting that was held between U.S. Envoy Donald Rumsfeld and Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche.

Sources in the Foreign Ministry say that in the present situation in Lebanon, ther is no chance for negotiations on security arrangements, and no room for them. Therefore there is no need for the U.S. envoy to mediate between Israel and Lebanon in such negotiations, since at the present the Lebanese Government is not a factor with whom negotiations can be conducted.

AFP: West German Weapon 'Secretly' Acquired

NC011117 Paris AFP in English 1028 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Bonn, April 1 (AFP) — Israel has secretly acquired one of the 120-mm guns used in the West German Leopard-2 tank, the West German weekly *DER SPIEGEL* has reported in its latest edition appearing tomorrow.

Israel wants to copy the high-performance weapon to equip its own Merkava tank, the magazine said, quoting unidentified experts in Bonn.

Using American help, the Israelis probably acquired the gun from the Dusseldorf firm of Rheinmetall, it indicated.

Israel did not want to import the gun because it was hostile to a deal by West Germany agreeing to sell arms to Saudi Arabia, it was reported.

U.S Defense Secretary Postpones Scheduled June Visit

TA020851 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Apr 84 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Niva Lanir]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, who was scheduled to visit Israel in June, yesterday announced a postponement of his scheduled visit. Weinberger's visit had been set some time ago, and the secretary decided to postpone it because of the Israeli election campaign, he announced, and not for any other reason. This statement was intended as a retort to a report in *THE NEW YORK TIMES* alleging that Minister Arens's remarks [references to Weinberger's Jewish background] were the real reason for the postponement. Weinberger last visited Israel 18 months ago. So far no other date has been set for his visit.

Rally Held in Galilee Village To Mark Land Day

TA301537 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] The main rally marking Land Day was held this afternoon in the village of 'Arraba in the Galilee. In an address to the rally, MK Tawfiq Tubi of HADASH said there is no alternative to establishing a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

Members of the Sons of the Village Movement and of extremist organizations tried to disrupt the rally. One of them covered his face and hoisted a PLO flag. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that a group of Druze from the Golan Heights attended the rally and was greeted with a standing ovation.

A rally held in the town of Rahat in the Negev was attended primarily by Jewish and Arab students from Beersheba and Jerusalem. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that at this rally as well supporters of the Sons of the Village Movement tried to interrupt organizers of the rally identified with HADASH. The rally, however, ended quietly.

Gaza Students Sentenced for Land Day Incidents

TA012037 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1730 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Gaza, 1 Apr (ITIM) — About 40 students at Al-Azhar College in Gaza, who were detained on Saturday, 31 March, on charges of disturbing the peace in connection with Land Day, were sentenced by a military judge in a swift trial. A number of charges were filed against the accused, which included disturbing the peace, throwing stones, and flying PLO flags. The judge sentenced 35 of them to 3 months in prison and a 3-month suspended sentence. The young people were also fined from 35,000 to 50,000 shekels. The ITIM correspondent in the Gaza Strip adds that the rioting and disturbances took place inside the college building after security forces, who were summoned to the site, prevented the students from leaving the building. The rioters were arrested on Saturday evening.

Egyptian Helicopter Permitted To Land in Sinai

TA301311 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Mar 84 p 3

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Yesterday afternoon an Egyptian officer and three soldiers were busy detonating mines in Ra's Nasrani in the Tiran Straits area when one of the mines suddenly blew up. As a result the Egyptian officer was killed instantly and three soldiers received moderate wounds.

As is known, according to the peace accords, it is forbidden to land planes or helicopters in this area. The Egyptians had a problem, but they solved it while still honoring the peace treaty. A senior Egyptian officer called the joint Israeli-Egyptian military committee headed by Brigadier General Dov Si'on and asked for permission to bring in a helicopter to evacuate the wounded soldiers. The Egyptian request was transmitted to the chief of staff and received the approval of his deputy, Major General David 'Ivri. The Israeli military committee informed Egypt that Israel did not object to the Egyptians' bringing a helicopter to the region. Within minutes an Egyptian helicopter landed at the site and evacuated the wounded soldiers and the dead officer to the hospital in the Sharm ash-Shaykh region. A report on this was later transmitted to the IDF senior levels.

Briefs

Price Increases — The prices of all basic commodities went up over night by an average rate of 14 percent. The Finance Ministry says this increase is in line with the cap on subsidies in the new state budget. The government has increased prices of basic commodities over the past few months over and above the Consumer Price Index increase. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Mar 84 TA]

ALGERIA

Bendjedid Receives King Husayn Message From Al-Masri

JN012212 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Amman — Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid has received a message from His Majesty King Husayn. Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri conveyed the message when the president received him today. Al-Masri will convey a similar message to Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba tomorrow.

CSSR, Mexican Trade Officials Arrive for Talks

LD302017 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Two arrivals to note in Algiers: that of the Czechoslovak minister of foreign trade, who has come to take part, as of tomorrow, in the work of the Algerian-Czechoslovak Joint Commission; and that of the president of the Mexican Institute of Foreign Trade, who has come to examine the possibilities open to the enterprises of the two countries for access to each other's markets.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Ethiopia's Mengistu 31 Mar

LD312107 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1930 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli, 31 Mar (JANA) — The brother leader of the revolution this afternoon received Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council in Ethiopia.

Following the meeting, a working session was held between the brother leader of the revolution and the Ethiopian chairman, attended by the delegation which is accompanying Chairman Mengistu.

The chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council arrived in Tripoli at noon today and was welcomed by Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud.

Al-Murabitun's Qulaylat Meets With Al-Qadhdhafi

NC020616 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution [Al-Qadhdhafi] last night received Ibrahim Qulaylat, leader of the Independent Nasirite Movement Al-Murabitun.

Palestinian As-Sa'iqah Leader Cables Al-Qadhdhafi

LD020920 Tripoli JANA in English 0832 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 29, April 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — 'Isam al-Qadi, the secretary general of the Organisation of the Popular Liberation War Vanguards (As-Sa'iqah Forces), has confirmed the continuation of the battle and its intensification over all Arab platforms as well as the alliance of the Arab revolutionary force to thwart imperialist, Zionist and reactionary conspiracies, liberate Palestine and realise comprehensive Arab unity.

This came in a message of congratulations to the leader of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution on the 14th anniversary of the expulsion of British colonial bases and forces from Libya in which he also said: As we are waging the battle of confrontation against Palestinian reaction to topple its treasonous destructive path we newly declare in the name of the General Command of the Organisation of the Popular Liberation War Vanguards (As-Sa'iqah Forces) our total solidarity with the people of Jamahiriyah and its revolutionary leadership. We fully believe that our Libyan Arab people whose victories have been successive since the eruption of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution is today more than ever capable of repulsing the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary onslaught against the Arab homeland and liquidating all its agents symbols in the Arab region.

Mauroy Remarks on Chad Intervention Excoriated

LD021034 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 Apr 84

[By JANA political editor]

[Text] Tripoli, 2 Apr (JANA) — The French prime minister, Pierre Mauroy, stated the day before yesterday, Saturday, before leaving the Ivory Coast capital that France is present in Chad because Libya, he claims, has violated the borders of this country. Pierre Mauroy's statement was made at a news conference he held in Abidjan, in which he pointed out that national borders must be respected. The political editor of JANA commented on these statements and said:

The thing that could be said about the French prime minister's statements is that this senior French official has flagrantly intended to distort the facts and justify the French military presence and the French forces' domination of a large part of the Chadian people's land. France, by the very nature of its colonialist policy, has exceeded all limits and gave its move a military character in order to storm others' territories by force. It is our conviction that the French prime minister's statements were based on distortion and turned the facts upside down because everybody knows that Libya sent its forces to Chad at the request of the legitimate provisional government under Goukouni Oueddei and not to occupy, impose hegemony and expand; nor was this against the will of the Chadian people, unlike France's actions. It was for the sake of bringing peace and putting an end to the civil war. It indeed accomplished its mission with success and withdrew its forces when the legitimate government asked it to do that.

What a difference between the two positions and the two intentions: The Arab Libyan position is motivated by the desire to extend a helping hand to a people exhausted by civil war; but the French position is motivated by the untamable desire for occupation and expansion, and this is what we see now. This provides for a clear condemnation of all French policies. Every politician is wary of being deceived by appearances, and on our part we realize the aim of the French prime minister's statements, and that is to widen the scope of the French military intervention and to search for justifications to dominate completely the Chadian territories and to make them a springboard for aggression.

Pierre Mauroy wants to evade the just stances and give France the right to intervene, and at the same time he remains arrogant about seeking to improve the image of colonialist France for the symbols of agentry linked with the French colonialism. However, with bare facts we are exposing this opportunist and disgraceful behavior and this shameful distortion of all historical facts, which show that France is an alien and parasitical body in the African Continent, since it has no common border with Chad and its security is not connected with the security of Chad, as is the case with Libya and Chad. Moreover, France has spent enormous sums of money and crossed the seas and the skies of other countries in order to reach Chad, not for the sake of peace and not for the sake of the Chadian people's interests, but for one single aim: occupation and invasion.

These are the true foundations of the French policy which Pierre Mauroy and others are unable to conceal because history is stronger than all the distortions with which the French prime minister intends to hide the French colonial aims in Chad.

Border Opened for Egyptians Working in Country

LD012006 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1925 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Tripoli, 1 Apr (JANA) — The Libyan border was opened for Egyptian citizens working in the Jamahiriyah as of yesterday. This humanitarian measure was carried out by the Jamahiriyah in order to alleviate the suffering of those Egyptian brothers who have been facing numerous difficulties at international airports when visiting their families and relatives in Egypt.

Sources at the Libyan Arab Passports and Customs Office in Musa'id stated that any measures taken to prevent Egyptian workers from crossing the Egyptian border points are considered the responsibility of the Egyptians. The Libyan people's authorities, which facilitated their travel procedures, will not accept any responsibility.

MAURITANIA

Haydala Returns Home Following Sekou Toure Funeral

AB310846 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation [CMSN] and head of state, returned to Nouakchott last night from Conakry where he attended the funeral of the late Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure.

President Haydala was received on arrival at the airport by Interior Minister Yall Abdoulaye, who took care of day-to-day matters while the head of state was absent, by Captain (Mohamed Abdoul), the governor of Nouakchott, and by many members of the CMSN and government present at the airport, as well as by many other dignitaries.

MOROCCO

'Arafat Arrives Following Sekou Toure Funeral

LD312101 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Morocco this morning from Conakry after having taken part in the funeral of the late President Sekou Toure of Guinea. During his stay in the Guinean capital Mr Yasir 'Arafat met with a number of African leaders attending the funerals, including President Husni Mubarak, and the presidents of the Republics of Sudan, Senegal, and Mali.

SUDAN

Doctors' Resignations, Government Reactions Detailed

Numayri: Coup Aborted

JN011252 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] In a meeting held in Khartoum and attended by ranking SSU officials and several trade unionists, President Ja'far Numayri revealed that a coup d'etat was aborted in Sudan. The coup was supposed to take place on 12 March but was postponed until 31 March.

The Sudanese president, however, did not elaborate about the number, and identity of those involved in the aborted coup d'etat, or the number of those that have been arrested.

The meeting was originallly devoted to the discussion of the collective resignation of more than 2,000 physicians who are working in government departments and institutions. These doctors have gone on strike more than once asking for wage increases and better working conditions. The Sudanese Government refused their collective resignation while President Numayri accused the Sudanese physicians of being involved in a conspiracy seeking to undermine stability and security in the country. He added that the physicians' strike is connected to another conspiracy which he will reveal soon.

Physicians Association Dissolved

JN011801 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1725 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Apr (SUNA) — The general registrar of the labor organizations today decided to dissolve the Sudanese Physicians Association.

The decision says that in view of the association's nonabidance by the procedures for settling disputes — as it has not adopted the sound course of referring the dispute to arbitration or reconciliation, thus violating the directives of the General Federation of Employees and Trade Unions — the association's registration is canceled in accordance with Article 31 of the Sudanese Trade Unions Law, dated 1977.

Cabinet Condemns Doctors' Move

JN012037 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Apr (SUNA) — The Cabinet, chaired by President Numayri, listened here today to two reports — from the minister of health and from General 'Abd as-Salam Salih, commander of the medical corps — on health conditions in the national capital and in the country. After reassuring itself of the soundness of the measures that were taken to confront the situation that resulted from the doctors' refusal to provide the citizens with the necessary services, the Cabinet issued a statement condemning the position of the doctors' union and its decision to suspend work. This violates the country's laws, the profession's moralities, and human values.

The Cabinet also praised the humanitarian and patriotic attitudes of those, like the doctors, who work in the health field and continued to carry out their sacred duty all over the country. The Cabinet also praised the role of the medical corps in providing all citizens with medical services. It also stressed its appreciation for all the dispensaries and private clinics which opened their doors to receive patients and provide them with medicine. It also expressed its pride in the Health Ministry's offices and branches and the executive offices of the workers' unions. The Cabinet also stressed its concern about the principle of dialogue as the best means for resolving all the problems, and announced its categorical opposition to striking and suspending work, regardless of the causes and justifications. The Cabinet also asserted its adherence to the SSU resolutions on the government's decision to reconsider the salary scale of all the workers within the state's capabilities and priorities.

Numayri: Strike Threatens Security

JN011147 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Apr (SUNA) — Last night President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, chairman of the SSU, addressed the expanded meeting of the executive bureaus of the popular and group organisations.

During the meeting Numayri explained the circumstances that accompanied the doctors' work stoppage and the Doctors Union's bypassing of all legal and union procedures in trying to solve the problem. The president added that this shows that their position goes beyond their demand for benefits and better conditions of service to a plan that aims at endangering the security and stability of the country.

The president added that the Doctors' Union has persisted in conveying misleading and untrue information to its members concerning talks with the Health Ministry. He indicated that a number of doctors had been dragged to the devious ways of the union's leadership without knowing where it would lead them. He stressed that the doctors' strike is linked to another plan which will be revealed shortly.

Numayri Issues 72-Hour Ultimatum

JN021200 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Apr (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has given an ultimatum to the striking physicians and other participants in the strike, warning that they should return to work within 72 hours.

Addressing the citizens via media organs yesterday, he announced that legal measures will be adopted against anyone who does not abide by this call, emphasizing that those who abide by it and return to work will not be punished for their previous acts.

President Numayri also called on the competent organs to adopt the necessary measures in order to isolate the subersive elements and protect security, order, and law. He said that measures will be adopted to reorganize the Sudanese Physicians Association through consultations with the professional quarters and through a decision to be adopted by the competent authority in accordance with the law.

Numayri Addresses Populace

JN021309 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Apr (SUNA) — In his address to the nation through the media yesterday, President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri dealt with the discussions in the meeting he headed last Friday which included the executive bureaus of the factional and popular organisations in the SSU.

The president indicated that the meeting dealt with the scheme to incite disturbances in the country, the conspiracies of foreign powers to undermine the unity and integrity of the country, and the open instigation to sabotage our institutions and utilities.

President Numayri said that the conferees were informed of the funds allocated to develop health services in the national capital through the initiative he had announced which concerns setting up programs to intensify public services in the southern regions. The conferees were also informed of the efforts made in all the regions of Sudan and at the central level to develop health services in addition to the great expansion in the medical services facilities and health education.

Numayri explained that the allegation that the work stoppage and mass resignations were motivated by concern over the development of medical services is a false pretext aimed at throwing dust in the eyes.

Numayri said that the conferees were informed of the details of the agreement which the Physicians' Union had concluded willingly and after negotiations with the Health Ministry and which was approved by the concerned sides on 30 January 1984. He indicated that the agreement was deliverately mispresented and ignored. The response to the agreement was a strike without any regard for the laws, rules, and regulations for resolving trade union disputes.

President Numayri said that the meeting firmly denounced what has been revealed by events to be the mixing of trade union demands with political opposition, blatant instigation of hostility toward the revolution, and suspect and agent elements inciting mutiny, chaos, and destruction of public establishments and utilities.

Numayri Urges Citizens' Vigilance

JN021200 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Apr (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri instructed the masses of the Sudanese people to keep watch on public and private establishments, stressing that there is a set plan and a strategy being employed by the enemies and agents who go on strikes, to set fire to various public and private establishments and properties.

In his address to citizens yesterday, President Numayri said that those enemies and agents have tried to do this twice in the popular market in Khartoum. They have also tried once again to set fire to the cotton on which the country's budget depends.

President Numayri indicated that the agents and traitors are increasing in number these days and have begun to obey the orders to carry out sabotage. Numayri called on our sons and daughters in the schools not to be misled by the false propaganda circulated by these traitors.

In his address to the citizens through the media, President Numayri again called on the citizens to watch over and guard their property and themselves so as not to give chance or opportunity to these agents. President Numayri appealed to the citizens to expose these agents quickly so that they can be dealt the punishment they deserve.

Numayri Assails Al-Qadhdafi Plots Against Country

JN011846 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1750 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Apr (SUNA) — SSU Chairman President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has stressed that through its organized efforts and the coordinated action among its organizations both inside and outside the country, the Sudanese leadership was able to isolate, expose, and paralyze Colonel al-Qadhdhafi on the level of international relations.

In remarks made here yesterday at the meeting of the executive offices of the factional and popular organizations, President Numayri added that despite his continuous plots against Sudan, Al-Qadhdhafi fears the Sudanese people and their leadership. He said that Al-Qadhdhafi is insecure even in his own house, and this is why he spends every night in a different place.

President Numayri stressed that Al-Qadhdhafi attempts to use his money to fight against a nation, a state, and an organization. He said that Al-Qadhdhafi will not be able to achieve this, because our state is based on firm principles, values, and ethics that will not be shaken by the colonel's recklessness and arrogance.

At-Tayyib Says North, South Conspiracies Linked

JN011543 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Apr (SUNA) — First Vice President Major General 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib has explained that the conspiracy in southern Sudan is part of the conspiracy in the north. He added that this conspiracy in the north is represented by the communist and Ba'thist groups as well as by the agents of the Libyan regime, who are called the revolutionary committees and who returned to the country after receiving weapons training in order to take action when necessary. He also added that this front began to contact the unions in order to create problems, shake stability, and undermine the efforts [sentence as received]. He said that these group used the University of Khartoum as a base for spreading their poisons and leveling accusations.

The first vice president also asserted that the security organs did not detain anyone in order to not give any opportunity to those who want to step up the wave of disturbances. He added that the security organs are watching all the events accurately. He also explained that some of these groups are printing their leaflets in certain embassies which are helping these conspirators. He also affirmed that the security organs are watching the communist and Ba'thist doctors as well as some Libyan agents who meet in houses and clinics. He added that appropriate measures will be taken at the appropriate time.

Foreign Minister Sees Perez de Cuellar Over Libya

JN301234 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] United Nations, 30 Mar (SUNA) — Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak has met with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The meeting dealt with the complaint against the Libyan regime which Sudan presented, asking that Libya's hostile acts be condemned so that Sudan will be able to pursue the development process and the African Continent will abandon wars.

The minister said that he explained to the UN secretary general the application of Islamic law and the decentralization in Sudan. The minister repeated an invitation for Perez de Cuellar to visit Sudan. Javier Perez de Cuellar stressed his determination to make the visit very soon.

Mirghani MENA Interview Reviewed

JN301131 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1052 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] United Nations, 30 Mar (SUNA) — Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak has stated that Sudan was forced to resort to the UN Security Council due to Libya's repeated aggressions and its disrespect for the regional organizations to which Sudan has turned in the past. In an interview he granted to MENA and the Cairo newspaper *AL-AKHBAR* here last Wednesday, Mirghani said that Libya's policy is bent on aggression, expansion, and fomenting trouble in neighboring states. This policy, Mirghani said, is the primary cause of the Sudanese-Libyan differences.

On Sudanese-Ethiopian relations, Mirghani said that Sudan believes in the principle of dialogue to solve problems. He said that our country will not spare any effort to establish good relations with Ethiopia in the region's interest.

On the Western reactions to the recent raid on Omdurman, Mirghani said that these reactions were extremely satisfactory [word indistinct]. He added that Sudan's complaint against Libya in the UN Security Council was intended to draw the world's attention to its aggression against Sudan.

The minister described Sudan's relations with Egypt as historical and strong. He said that the two countries integration has increased the strength of these relations, adding that any threat to either of the two Nile valley states is a threat to the other state.

TUNISIA

Mzali Meets With Iraqi Foreign Minister 'Aziz

LD301947 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali this afternoon had a meeting with Mr Tariq 'Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, who is presently in Tunisia for the 81st session of the Arab League Council. Mr Tariq 'Aziz said that he had delivered to Mr Mohamed Mzali a verbal message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother President Habib Bourguiba and to the prime minister. He added that the talks were fraternal and cordial, reflecting the nature of the strong and advanced relations existing between Iraq and Tunisia.

Mr Tariq 'Aziz also expressed to Mr Mohamed Mzali Iraq's appreciation for the stand taken by His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba, the prime minister and the Tunisian Government on the side of Iraq in the struggle it is waging against the aggression to which it is being subjected.

DJIBOUTI

'Arafat Arrives on 2-Day Visit, Met by Hassan

EA011916 Djibouti Domestic Service in Somali 1645 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Excerpt] PLO Chairman Mr Yasir 'Arafat arrived in the Republic of Djibouti this evening. The PLO leader's special plane touched down at Djibouti International airport at 1800 today for a 2-day official visit to the Republic of Djibouti.

On hand to receive the PLO leader and his four-man delegation were the president of the Republic of Djibouti, Alhaji Hassan Gouled Aptidon; the speaker of the national assembly, Mr Abd al-Qadir Waberi Askar; the Council of Ministers; other senior officials of the Republic's government, members of the diplomatic corps, and a very large crowd of people.

The first round of talks on matters of bilateral interest between the PLO leader and the president of the Republic are currently in progress at the presidency. The PLO leader is expected to address the national assembly tomorrow.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu, Chernenko Reaffirm Close Cooperation Ties

EA301442 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 30 Mr 84

[Text] Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam disclosed that the experience we have acquired and are still acquiring from the vanguard CPSU in the last chapter of our preparations to provide a strong and lasting party leadership for our revolution and people has been found to be most useful.

Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, Provisional Military Administrative Council and COPWE chairman, commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, disclosed this in his speech at a dinner hosted in his honor at the Kremlin by Comrade Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

In his speech the comrade chairman said the regular fruitful discussions held by those of us in administrative positions in the USSR and Ethiopia have given further depth and strength to the sincere relations and comprehensive cooperation between the two countries. He added that the contacts and exchange of working experience between COPWE and the CPSU on various levels will enable us to (?consolidate) favorable conditions for the Ethiopian workers party we will establish tomorrow [as heard].

Speaking on the economic conditions in our country, the comrade chairman noted the comprehensive and ongoing economic campaign we were conducting to revive and develop the backward economy we inherited, and our basic infrastructure of development demolished during the expansionist war waged against us on the eve of our revolution is showing results, and that is known to our Soviet comrades who follow our efforts closely. He stated that although on the other hand what has still to be done far outweighs what we have done up to now, when we measure this from the standpoint of country's wide natural resources and the depth of our manpower, our hopes for development are bright and objective.

On his part, Comrade Konstantin Chernenko, secretary-general of the CPSU Central Committee, mentioned the friendly relations between the peoples of the two countries and stated that the relations, as well as being strengthened by friendly and cooperation agreements, had been adorned by new and bright features.

He added that Comrade Mengistu's coming to Moscow and the high-level talks held would occupy a substantial role in developing those relations, and he added that in this respect that the USSR and Socialist Ethiopia through their friendship were making their individual contributions to world peace and increasing cooperation between the people of the world.

EPLF: 'Several Thousand' Government Troops Captured

EA291613 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somalia and Abo Liberation Fronts in Somali 1200 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] The Eritrean People's Liberation Front [EPLF] has said that recent engagements between the gallant fighters of the EPLF and black colonialist Abyssinian forces resulted in the capture of several thousand Abyssinian soldiers forced to fight in Eritrea by the Addis Ababa regime. The EPLF has appealed to the International Red Cross and other international organizations for urgent food aid for the prisoners.

An EPLF spokesman told pressmen in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, that the prisoners were captured in several bitter battles between their intrepid fighters and black colonialist Abyssinian troops in northwestern Eritrea. The spokesman added that the prisoners include Colonel Girma Kasahun, commander of the 23d Brigade of the Abyssinian armed forces stationed in Eritrea; Colonel Hadgu (Ugbay), the officer in charge of supplies to all the forces in Eritrea; and other senior officers of the Abyssinian armed forces. The spokesman added that the EPLF forces wiped out all the Abyssinian bases along the two roads leading to the town of (Keya Sar).

SOMALIA

Mengistu's 'Fence-Mending' Visit to Moscow Rapped

EA012345 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Abd ar-Rahman Shidow Abdi commentary]

[Text] Having witnessed over the past 15 years the expulsion of the Soviet Union from Egypt, Sudan, and the Somali Democratic Republic, at the beginning of 1977 we saw the establishment of close relations between the Soviet Union and Abyssinia. Since that time the Soviet Union has attempted to arm the Abyssinian regime out of all proportion. The Soviet Government has attempted to ensure that it does not suffer the same fate in Abyssinia as Egypt, Sudan, and Somalia.

Since the beginning of 1977 the Abyssinian regime has become a tool used and manipulated by the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union ensures that the Abyssinian regime serves its overall interests, its expansionist policy, its strategy in the Horn of Africa and its global chauvinistic policy.

The Soviet Government has several military bases on Abyssinian territory, both on land and sea, and the Soviet Government has also infiltrated into all the state organs of Abyssinia. Following the appearance of certain differences between the two sides in the wake of the expulsion of some Soviet diplomats from Abyssinia, according to Western diplomatic sources there has been much activity between Mosocw and Addis Ababa in an attempt to mend fences. The visit of Mengistu Haile Mariam to the Soviet capital and his subsequent talks with senior Soviet officials is part of this program to clear up these differences. His visit has several purposes: first, to clear up differences between the two sides; second, to get more arms and other military equipment from the Soviet Union. Since 1977 the Soviet Union has poured arms without limit into the hands of the Abyssinian regime. There are over 4,000 Soviet military advisers, and over 10,000 Cuban senior officials and soldiers in Abyssinia.

While in Moscow, Mengistu's talks with senior Soviet officials centered on the rescheduling of the more than $3 billion credit the Soviet Government gave to the Abyssinian regime in the form of military arms and equipment. Although this was on the top of Mengistu's shopping list when he flew into Moscow, it is not expected that the Abyssinian regime will ever be able to repay the money. Although the Soviet line of credit to Abyssinia is limitless, Mengistu has asked the Kremlin for more arms and other military equipment which has no other purpose but to fan the already burning fires in the Horn of Africa.

Confirmed reports, citing Western diplomats, indicate that the Abyssinian regime, assisted by its allies from Cuba, Libya and others, is preparing to launch the seventh offensive on the liberation movements of Eritrea, Western Somalia, Tigre, Abo and others. Full participation by the allied forces commanded and directed by senior Soviet officials is expected in this offensive. The forces earmarked to take part are from Abyssinia, Cuba, Libya and others in the Kremlin camp. This offensive will be identical to the "Red Star" campaign launched against the Eritrean people in February 1982, in which the Abyssinians and its backers suffered great reverses and a humiliating defeat.

As well as the liberation movements in the region, there are several well-organized groups of Abyssinian citizens who are armed and organized in opposition to the policies and the current administration of Addis Ababa, headed by Mengistu and his henchmen.

These organized groups are working to topple Mengistu's regime. The aimless and myopic policies pursued by Mengistu can be seen in the current drought in the country. Although a very large area of Abyssinian territory has been gripped by drought and the people are suffering and are in need of assistance, Mengistu is planning an offensive and a provocative aggression which the country can ill afford.

Another unfortunate situation facing the people of Ethiopia is the diversion of international food aid to military use. Such diversion of food aid for the drought-stricken Abyssinians has been internationally condemned, but the question is: How long will the Abyssinian people tolerate such deaf and myopic leaders who are out to lead the country into provocative wars instead of solving current problesm and devising a strategy of survival?

For that reason it is imperative for the Abyssinian people to awaken and openly oppose the war-like policies and strategies pursued by Mengistu, which are not in the interests of the Abyssinian people. The only way for the Abyssinian people to achieve this is to join hands completely with the liberation movements and other organizations opposed to the Mengistu administration, and jointly enhance the wresting of their independence and dignity from the terror gang in Addis Ababa.

UGANDA

Delegation Returns From East African Community Forum

EA011922 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania have signed separate agreements with creditors of the defunct East African Community. The signing followed a 1-week meeting in Arusha between representatives of the creditors and ministers from Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. The Uganda ministerial delegation led by the minister of regional cooperation, Mr Tewungwa, returned home this afternoon.

In an interview with a UGANDA NEWS AGENCY correspondent, Mr Sam Tewungwa revealed that agreements on debt settlement were signed with Canada, Italy, Zambia, and Britain. He disclosed that the British delegation informed the meeting that the British Government is prepared to consider waiving arrears and interests accrued on British loans to the former East African Community. Britain would also apply [words indistinct] terms of adjustment to the outstanding (?balances). The total amount owed is approximately 5 million pounds. Mr Tewungwa also told newsmen that the terms of agreement reached with the World Bank on new loan apportionment will soon be effective.

Ministers from the three former member states of the defunct East African Community also held meetings to settle all outstanding compensation issues. They also discussed matters relating to handling of the former East African Community funds and pensions. They agreed to finalize all outstanding issues of these matters at the next ministerial meeting to be held in Nairobi between 9 and 10 April 1984.

The final ministerial meeting will be held 16 April 1984, also in Nairobi, to finalize the draft of the mediation agreement and other related documents. The signing of the mediation agreement is expected to take place [words indistinct]. While in Arusha, Kenya and Uganda ministers signed a bilateral agreement and a memorandum of understanding regarding settlement of private sector debts.

CHAD

French Defense Secretary Arrives; Mauroy Due 2 Apr

AB011352 Paris AFP in French 0957 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 1 Apr (AFP) — French Secretary of State for Defense Jean Gatel arrived in Ndjamena some time between Saturday night and Sunday morning, a day before French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy's planned visit of a few hours to Chad on Monday.

Early on Sunday morning, Mr Gatel flew to Abeche, in the north of Chad, where he will inspect the disposition of the Manta Operation which has mobilized 3,000 French troops in the country.

With regard to Prime Minister Mauroy, whose arrival in Ndjamena is scheduled for Monday morning, he will visit Moussoro, north of the Chadian capital, where elements of the 21st Marine and Infantry Regiment have been deployed. Mr Mauroy will be received by Chadian head of state Hissein Habre with whom he "will take stock of the deadlocked situation."

"Chadians do not yet see very well the deterrent role of the French troops in Chad," the CHADIAN PRESS AGENCY wrote on Saturday, adding that Mr Habre and Mr Mauroy "must realize that the present situation must not last."

For his part, Chadian Information Minister Mahamat Soumaila told AFP on Saturday that the relations between Paris and Ndjamena are "very good." He noted, however, that "France's military assistance should ideally have been more massive" in order to make it possible for Chad to recover its territorial integirty.

Habre Returns From Guinea After Talks With Mauroy

AB311221 Paris AFP in French 1040 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 31 Mar (Afp) — Chadian President Hissein Habre Returned to Ndjamena on Saturday morning from Conakry where he attended the funeral of Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure on Friday.

Mr Habre, who held talks in the Guinean capital with French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy, made no statement on Saturday upon his return to the Chadian capital.

Fire Destroys Munitions Stores at Police Barracks

AB310946 Paris AFP in English 0938 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Ndjamena, March 31 (AFP) — Fire destroyed a munitions (?store) at a Chadian military police barracks here last night. An information ministry statement said no-one was hurt in the blaze, which was started accidentally and set off bomb [words indistinct].

Ndjamena Arms Dealer Supplying Maitatsine Group

AB300740 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] We have more proof that the neocolonial administration of Ndjamena is a threat to neighboring countries. We are going to give you an example. After the story on drug trafficking between Ndjamena and neighboring countries, comments are rife on arms smuggling. The news is very fresh.

Alhaji Abdou Dine, of Senegalese nationality and an arms dealer living in Ndjamena, has been arrested at Bilangoa. He was found with four cases of ammunition, two cases of arms including one with [word indistinct] guns and a case containing weapons meant for the Maitatsine group, the religious fanatic terrorists of Nigeria. Our correspondent in Ndjamena points out that Alhaji Abdoul Dine, who lives in the (Repos) district in the home of a certain Major Makaila Hussein, carries out his criminal activities under the remote control of the neocolonial administration of Ndjamena.

GABON

Bongo Holds Talks With France's Mauroy

AB010805 Libreville Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] The visiting French prime minister, Pierre Mauroy, is continuing his visit to our country. He arrived in Libreville yesterday. Shortly after his arrival he was received in audience by Prime Minister Leon Mebiane and later by President Omar Bongo.

During their talks Mr Mauroy and President Bongo examined Africa's current major problems including the situation in Chad, Western Sahara, Guinea, and the Middle East.

Composition of President Bongo's New Cabinet

AB282315 Paris AFP in French 1701 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Libreville, 28 Mar (AFP) — The list of the new Gabonese cabinet following yesterday's reshuffle by President El-Hadj Omar Bongo is as follows:

Prime minister and head of government	Leon Mebiame
First deputy prime minister, alternate prime minister and minister of road, rail, river, and lagoon transport and of social communication	Georges Rawiri
Second deputy prime minister, and minister of mines and hydrocarbons	Etienne Guy Mouvagha-Tchioba
Third deputy prime minister, and minister of civil service and administrative reform	Emile Kassa-Mapsi
Minister of state, and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation	Martin Bongo

Minister of state for domains, land registration and urbanism, and responsible for the law of the sea
Minister of state, and secretary general of the presidency of the republic
Minister of state for higher education and scientific research
Minister of state for industries and state companies
Minister of state for territorial administration and collectivities
Minister of state, personal adviser to the president of the republic, and minister of commerce and consumption in charge of new missions (new ministry)
Minister of state in charge of state control (new ministry)
Minister of national defense and veterans affairs responsible for public security
Minister personal adviser to the president of the republic and minister of civil and commercial aviation responsible for missions
Minister of justice and keeper of the seals
Minister of information, posts, and telecommunications
Minister of economy, finance, and participations

Minister of public works, equipment, and construction; and commander in chief of the national police force
Minister of planning and territorial development
Minister of agriculture, animal husbandry, and rural economy
Minister of national education

Minister secretary general of the government
Minister of labor and employment
Minister of public health and population
Minister of social affairs, social security, and welfare
Minister of water and forests in charge of forestation
Minister of professional training and promotion of handicrafts
Minister of energy and hydraulic resources
Minister of culture, arts, and popular education
Minister of environment and the protection of nature (new ministry)

Minister of youth and sports Henri Minko	Mbia Moise Abessolo Edou
Minister of human resources (new ministry)	Valentin Mihindou Mizamba
Minister of habitati[illegible]o- and commander in [illegible]Gabonese Armed Forces (new ministry)	General Ba Oumar
Minister responsibl[illegible] with the assembliesOugouliguende	Bonjean Francois Ondo
Minister delegate t[illegible]oussirou minister in charge of the merchant marineRichard	Mathieu Nguema
Minister delegate to t[illegible]a-Bekale deputy prime mi[illegible] Francois	Paulin Obame Nguema
Minister delegate to t[illegible]e- deputy prime minis[illegible]an	Joseph Mondjo
Minister delegate to the minister of state and personal adviser to the head of state [illegible]ou commerce and consumption	Guy Nzouba-Ndama
Minister delegate t[illegible]ho of economy and fin[illegible]at	Mamadou Diop

Secretaries of state:Michel Essonghe

For tourism and leisure in charge of national game reserves (new office)	Albert Yangari
For the promotion o[illegible]s	Mrs Rose Rogombe
For small and mediu[illegible]a enterprises Zacharie Myboto	Emmanuel Nze Bekale
To the prime minister Jean-Pierre	Joachim Mahotes Magouindi
To the minister of sta[illegible] affairs and coopera[illegible]andou	Mrs Honorine Dessou Naki
To the minister of s[illegible]ins, land registration, a[illegible]le for the law of the sea	Colonel Gaston Felicien Olouna
To the minister of s[illegible]ry general to the Presidency of the Republic and the[illegible]chouey for the Presidency of the Republic	Jean Ovono Essong
To the minister of s[illegible] of higher education Mayila	Raphael Moapa-Wala
To the minister of s[illegible] of territorial administration and local collectivitiesAlexandre Sambat	Antoine Mboumbou Miyakou
To the minister of j[illegible]Pierre Okias (new office)	Mrs Sophie Ngwamassana
To the minister of p[illegible]youami equipment, and construction (new office) Herve Moustinga	Claude Damas Ozimo
To the minister of agriculture, animal husbandry[illegible]Joseph rural economy Amiar Nganga	Augustin Boussamba
To the minister of p[illegible]i- and population Ndinge	Norbert Ndong
To the minister of [illegible]	Paulin Nguema Obame
To the minister of s[illegible]rthelemy and social security	Mrs Pauline Nyingone

ZAIRE

Authorities Investigate Kinshasa Explosions

AB301545 Paris AFP in French 1139 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Kinshasa 30 Mar (AFP) — The Zairian secret service is on the verge of a war and is leaving no stone unturned in the investigations into the two bomb explosions that left two persons dead and many others seriously wounded in Kinshasa on Tuesday afternoon, informed sources in the Zairian capital stressed on Friday.

It is recalled that two bombs exploded almost simultaneously in a building of the "Voice of Zaire" (Zairian radio and television), and on the ground floor of the Central Post Office, causing serious material damage. A third bomb was defused in time at the national radio's broadcasting center.

An inquiry was immediately opened by the Zairian authorities [words indistinct] inclined to think that Libya, which does not maintain relations with Zaire, or "pro-Libyan agents" were involved in this wave of terrorism.

The services under the National Documentation Agency closely follow in particular the activites of diplomats of the Libyan Embassy in the Congolese capital Brazzaville, which is separated from Kinshasa only by the Zaire River. They state that many members of this embassy recently visited the Zairian capital to "increase their contacts." They were given permission to enter Zaire, then they were closely followed. In support of their presumptions about Libya, several Zairian sources say that Tripoli "never" forgave Kinshasa for renewing diplomatic ties with Israel in 1982. In addition, the presence of nearly 2,000 Zairian soldiers in Chad, sent there to support the regime of President Hissein Habre, is considered by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi as an act of "aggression" against his country, sources also say in Kinshasa.

It will be recalled that on 11 January 1984 a booby-trapped suitcase that was discharged from a plane of the Soviet airline company, "Aeroflot," blew up at the international airport of the Zairian capital and caused a lot of damage in the customs section. The suitcase was put on the plane either in Lagos or Tripoli, although the company does not have traffic rights between the two African capitals and Kinshasa. A few days later, Zaire seized the opportunity to terminate the air agreement existing between it and the Soviet Union since April 1974. According to a reliable source, all the Soviet personnel of "Aeroflot" are to leave Zaire immediately.

In the second week of January, a bomb exploded in a small hotel — "La Rigole" — in a suburb of Kinshasa. There were no victims, but the building was seriously damaged.

It is possible that the murderous explosions of Tuesday are not related to the January criminal acts, but the repetition of these events is greatly preoccupying the Zairian Government as it is an obvious sign of a "desire to destabilize" the government of President Mobutu Sese Seko. Moreover, certain sources stress that it is most likely that the recent bomb attacks were organized by the Zairian opposition "whether manipulated from outside or not." In fact the bombs exploded only a few days after the MPR Central Committee's decision to choose only one candidate for the next presidential elections scheduled to take place in November, Marshal Mobutu, who is aspiring for a third term in office of another 7 years.

Nevertheless, up till now the Zairian leaders have not provided any details on the current inquiry. The national press has merely related the facts briefly, without comments. No one has claimed responsibility yet for the act. Moreover, there has been no special mobilization of security forces in Kinshasa since Tuesday, not even around public buildings. The Zairian authorities seem to have chosen to be discreet and not alarm the population openly.

Nevertheless, this sudden wave of terrorism, which is most uncommon in Zaire, will surely worry Marshal Mobutu, who has to continue his electioneering campaign all over the country in the coming months.

Brussels Called 'Center of Subversion' in Bombings

AB301614 Paris AFP in English 1510 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Kinshasa, March 30 (AFP) — Zaire today accused Belgium of being a centre of anti-Zairean subversion following two bomb explosions here this week which were claimed by opposition groups based in Brussels.

The official Zairean news agency AZAP reported that Belgian ambassador to Kinshasa Luc Putman had been summoned to the Foreign Ministry yesterday and given 48 hours to provide "clear answers to precise questions."

Zaire reserved the right to react as it pleased if Belgium did not clarify its position on the bombs, AZAP said.

In Brussels, the government said it had ordered an in-depth inquiry into claims by the Lumumba National Congolese Movement and the Zairean Socialist Party that they caused the blasts, in which two people died.

The government said it condemned all forms of terrorism and would not allow acts of terrorism to be organised from its territory.

The bombs went off almost simultaneously on Tuesday, one in a building owned by the Zairean broadcasting service and the other at the Central Post Office. A third bomb, found near the national radio centre, was defused.

Despite this sudden wave of terrorism, the Zairean news agency said President Mobutu took the unusual step of going to a Kinshasa restaurant on Wednesday and was mobbed by "tens of thousands" of citizens expressing their support.

Dissident Expelled From Belgium

AB010729 Paris AFP in English 0715 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Brussels, April 1 (AFP) — Belgium expelled a Zairian opposition leader Saturday as a result of last week's bomb explosions in Kinshasa, the Zairean capital, in which two people were killed, a Zairean opposition source said.

The source said Francois-Emery Lumumba-Tolenga, secretary-general of the Lumumba National Congolese Movement (MNCL), was put on a plane for Paris Saturday morning after spending the night in a Brussels jail following his arrest on Friday.

The source said Mr Lumumba-Tolenga, whose movement at first claimed responsibility for the bomb blasts and then accused the regime of President Mobutu Sese Seko of having staged them, was planning to fly on to Senegal.

A Belgian Foreign Ministry spokesman said Saturday that Mr Lumumba-Tolenga had failed to renew his residence permit which expired last December.

After the explosions, at Kinshasa's main post office and the state radio, president Mobutu accused Belgium, of which Zaire was once a colony, of harbouring opponents of his 19-year-old regime.

The Belgian Government promised an in-depth probe of claims by two exile groups — the MNCL and the Zairean Socialist Party — that they caused the explosions.

An MNCL statement in Paris Saturday strongly denounced Belgium's "flagrant interference" in Zaire's internal affairs.

BENIN

Kerekou Leads Delegation to Sekou Toure Funeral

AB300815 Cotonou Domestic Service in French
1930 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Excerpt] President Kerekou, our great comrade in arms leaves Cotonou tomorrow morning for Conakry to attend the funeral of the Guinean head of state. The minister of interior and public security issued a communique in this connection which we will read to you:

Our great comrade in arms President Mathieu Kerekou leaves Cotonou tomorrow, Friday, 30 March 1984, at the head of our country's delegation attending the national funeral of the late Ahmed Sekou Toure, the secretary general of the Democratic Party of Guinea, the head of state and president of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea in Conakry.

GHANA

Rawlings Urges Police To Embrace PDC Work Concept

AB310950 Accra Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant J.J. Rawlings has urged senior police officers to embrace the PDC [People's Defense Committee] concept and work in close cooperation with them. Speaking at the passing out parade of police officer cadets in Accra yesterday, the chairman advised them to use their experience and knowledge to guide, advise and encourage the PDC's to be useful partners in the task of nation building instead of seeing them as competitors trespassing their profession areas of competence. Flight Lieutenant Rawlings said defense committees, whether in the urban areas or in remote villages, are in a unique position to help the police in their task to build a just society. He noted that the present level of police public relations is not up to expectations. There is therefore the need to create a better relationship between the police and public. The chairman told the police officer cadets that the current revolution is making the ordinary man aware of his rights to decent treatment and social justice and there should be corresponding transformation in the attitudes and behavior which portray the policeman as a tyrant and a bully.

Government Delegation Attends Sekou Toure Funeral

AB301410 Accra Domestic Service in English
1300 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] A three-man government delegation led by a member of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], Naa Polkuu Chiiri, has flown to Conakry, Guinea, to represent the country at the funeral of President Ahmed Sekou Toure taking place there later today. Naa Polkuu Chiiri told newsmen before departure that the death of the Guinean president came as a big blow to progressive and democratic and freedom-loving peoples of Guinea, Africa and the world. He said the Guinean leader's contribution to the African struggle will forever be remembered, and his departure has created a vacuum that will take a long time to be filled.

The other members of the delegation are the secretary for foreign affairs, Dr Obed Asamoah; and the secretary for culture and tourism, Mr Asiedu Yerenkyi. Dr Asamoah described the late president as a great leader who showed the way to independence for French colonies in Africa. His contributions toward unity in Africa are very unique, he added.

Accompanying the delegation are cultural troops and an Asafo [war dancing group] comapny. On the same plane was the Guinean ambassador to Ghana, Mr Mamadou Cherif Diallo, and the Australian high commissioner to Ghana, Mr John D. (Matready).

MIRROR Views Main Features of 1984 Budget

AB010810 Accra Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 1 Apr 84

[From the press review]

[Text] *THE MIRROR* discusses the main features of the 1984 budget. It says this year's budget came on a cautious note. The dramatic changes which sent out rays of hope in previous budget were noticeably absent. The advantage is that it will not be difficult for the people to adjust themselves to the fact and this will create a congenial atmosphere and stability which are indispensable for higher production.

In the view of the paper, the adjustment in the exchange rate is moderate and if gradual steps are taken in the process of readjustment, the effects of hardship, would not be sharply felt so as to create loss of moral. *THE MIRROR* sees the agreement reached by the Tripartrite Committee on the new minimum wage as another important feature of this year's budget. Apart from making it possible for the government to take care of the increases without throwing the budget out of gear, it has also curtailed the confrontation which usually follows the presentation of budgets.

The paper notes that the emphasis on agriculture is quite understandable and everything should be done to give it the boost it deserves. And even though increases in food prices would not be in the interest of the farmer, price review committee can be set up to give the producers the chance to participate in the determination of fair prices for their products.

In the opinion of *THE MIRROR*, the banks should reduce the deposits on imports of agricultural implements and other raw materials to ensure the flow of these materials to boost agricultural and indistrial production. The paper points out that the current increases in the price of fuel will, as usual, affect every sphere of the economy. But since the government has decided to withdraw the subsidy, it is hoped that in the future prices of petroleum products will reflect the fluctuations of prices of oil on the market so as not to involve the government in debt while the cost to the consumer is not stretched beyond his capability.

GUINEA

Funeral of Sekou Toure Takes Place 30 March

AB301858 Dakar PANA in French 1700 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Conakry, 30 Mar (PANA) — Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure, who died on Monday in the United States, was buried today in the afternoon at the Heroes Mausoleum in Conakry.

The funeral ceremony, which lasted several hours, took place in the presence of 17 African heads of state and government; high European, American and Asian personalities.

The mortal remains of President Sekou Toure, draped in the national colors, first made a last tour around the 28 September Stadium, where militants of the Democratic Party of Guinea, PDG, the People's Armed Forces, youth and workers organizations in Guinea paid their last respect to the deceased president.

From the stadium, the funeral cortege went to the Grand Mosque of Conakry, where the Grand Imam led the faithful in the prayers for the dead and the big prayers of Friday.

It should, however, be stressed that all these final ceremonies in memory of the illustrous deceased were dominated by the funeral eulogy made at the People's Palace by Prime Minister Lansana Beavogui, who was appointed head of the Revolutionary Government of Guinea last Tuesday by the Political Bureau of the PDG.

In the presence of thousands of Guineans all dressed in white, Mr Beavogui prayed to God to let the soul of the late president rest in peace, before paying a last tribute to the iron will of the man he described as a giant of history. He emphasized that President Sekou Toure devoted the whole of his lifetime to the liberation of his country and the cause of African unity.

Beavogui Delivers Eulogy

AB301610 Conakry Domestic Service in French
1155 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Prime Minister Lansana Beavogui's oration at the funeral of the late Guinean president, Ahmed Sekou Toure, in Conakry on 30 March — live]

[Excerpts] Your Excellencies, heads of state and government, and personal friends and comrades-in-arms of the comrade supreme leader of the revolution, peoples of Africa, peoples of the world, and militant people of Guinea: First of all, I would like to thank all the heads of state who — because of their friendship for our leader and our great people and despite their heavy responsibilities — have abandoned everything in order to come to Conakry to dry our tears, assure us of their sympathy and solidarity, and especially to affirm to us that they stand at our side in order to try to fill the vacant space [words indistinct] left as a result of the sudden and tragic death of the man on whom we based all our (?hopes). We wish to express to them our gratitude as well as our feeling of consolation resulting from their presence. We also thank all the other friendly delegations that have come in these painful circumstances for our people in order to share our immense distress. We are also grateful to all those who attended to our wonderful leader during his medical treatment whose result — despite all the efforts made — was what the almighty Allah wanted.

People of Guinea, this is already one of our leader's (?priceless) legacies to you: The whole world has been demonstrating its friendship since the announcement of the tragic news. All these eminent personalities have come to Guinea. We can already assure our departed comrade, the supreme leader of the revolution, of their sincere and deep friendship. We wish to assure him that this friendship will continue; we can assure him of our infinite gratitude toward all these peoples from Africa, Asia, Europe, America, and Oceania who are with us today. Militant people of Guinea, today Friday, 30 March 1984, — God's holy day — you are paying your last respects to the man who has always considered you the absolute and sole point of reference, the man who — all his life — devoted himself to you without the least reservation and the least consideration for himself.

Comrade militants of the glorious Guinea Democratic Party, sons and daughters of Guinea: we know that each of you would have sacrificed his or her own life — for this was your solemn oath — in order to safeguard Ahmed Sekou Toure's life. But, you see, this was not God's wish. He has taken away the only man that should not be taken away! This is a sign over which we must meditate. This is why you must not weep, people of Guinea. President Ahmed Sekou Toure has always taught us that one should not mourn for dead perons, especially if the departed were persons who fully supported and embodied the causes of their peoples and of all the peoples of the world, who embodied justice, defended truth, and fought for social and democratic progress. Revolutionary people of Guinea, you must not mourn for your hero who has fallen on the battlefield. He died like a heroic fighter; he was not brought down by an enemy — by a man — but has been recalled by almighty Allah at the peak of his glory. May Allah be praised!

People of Guinea, you must not mourn for your immortal syli [elephant] because no enemy has ever defeated him. You must not weep for your syli, Sekou, because he has never been humiliated in his life. You must not weep for Sekou Toure because he lived like a great mean and died like a great man.

People of Guinea, because you begot such a genius, you must be proud and wipe away your tears. The path defined by the Guinean Democratic Party, our state-party, and its leader is permanent struggle against domination, discrimination, injustice, imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, evil and its manifestations, and Satan and its devotees so that freedom, equality, justice, and social and democratic progress may reign everywhere.

Chinese, Other Groups Arrive

AB301215 [Editorial Report] Conakry Domestic Service in French at 1015 GMT on 30 March continues its live report on the arrival of foreign delegations for the funeral of the late Guinean president, Sekou Toure. The announcer says: "In a few moments, President Omar Bongo's command plane will leave room for the Royal Moroccan Airways Boeing plane carrying the Moroccan delegation. Another Boeing plane belonging to the Chinese National Airline is just behind the Royal Moroccan Airways plane. China is therefore being represented at the national funeral for the late Guinean head of state, Comrade President Ahmed Sekou Toure. We will give you the composition of the Moroccan and Chinese delegations in a few moments." We can see over there a Boeing plane of the Mozambique National Airways which will soon land. The Mozambique delegation is led by President Samora Machel, who is the 20th head of state to arrive in Conakry. Hundreds of friends have also arrived from all the neighboring countries. "There is a veritable traffic jam at the airport. All the parking space is now occupied. Some planes are obliged to take off again, no doubt to go and land at the neighboring airport in Sierra Leone."

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Attends

AB302145 Paris AFP in English 1834 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Conakry, March 30 (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yasir 'Arafat was among the mourners at the funeral here today of Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure, radio Guinea reported.

Delay in OAU Summit Seen

AB311424 Dakar Domestic Service in French
2200 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] As you know, Guinea was scheduled to host the OAU summit in 2 months. Will the death of President Ahmed Sekou Toure hamper this decision? President Abdou Diouf agrees that a delay of some weeks would be appropriate. He announced this to newsmen this morning in Conakry:

[Begin recording] We should respect the OAU decision, regardless of the grief and the sudden event that brought us here. Unless otherwise agreed, it is Conakry that has been chosen to host the OAU summit. On this basis, I can see immediately that there will be a very brief delay. We must therefore foresee perhaps a postponement — by several weeks or months — of the OAU conference scheduled to take place in Conakry in 1984.

[Question by unidentified reporter] Mr President, will you do everything to ensure that this summit is held in Conakry?

[Diouf] I do not believe there is a need to lobby to make the summit take place in Conakry. It was an OAU decision. Only (?uncompromising) people could take steps to prevent this summit from being held in Conakry. The Conakry authorities alone can eventually suggest — for reasons we would easily understand and which would be evident — that the summit should not be held in Conakry. I have not heard this suggestion on the part of the Guinean authorities since coming here. For my part, I have always supported the legality and the respect for the decisions we have made. It is the Guinean capital that had been chosen to host this summit. I believe that until there is a decision to the contrary because of new and important factors, we must abide by this decision. [end recording]

'No Reason' to Move Summit

AB010855 Paris AFP in French 0736 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Conakry, 1 Apr (AFP) — Mozambique President Samora Machel stated in Conakry on Saturday that the death of President Sekou Toure should not prevent [words indistinct] of the OAU summit.

In a statement to the press in Conakry, where he attended the funeral of the Guinean head of state, President Machel said that the OAU summit would be held in the Guinean capital if all the conditions set by the majority of the member countries were fulfilled. He said this in reference to the representation of the SDAR at the conference. "There is no reason why the venue of the conference should be changed," the Mozambique head of state said.

PDG Central Committee Session To Convene 3 April

AB011057 Conakry Domestic Service in French
0915 GMT 1 Apr 84

["Communique" issued by the Democratic Party National Political Bureau; date and place not given]

[Text] The National Political Bureau of the Guinean Democratic Party [PDG] held a meeting on Saturday, 31 March 1984, from 1430 to 1600 under the chairmanship of Comrade Dr Lansana Beavogui, prime minister in charge of the government [title as heard].

Following the deliberations, the National Political Bureau convenes a session of the PDG Central Committee on Tuesday, 3 April 1984, at midday in the 2 October Hall of the People's Palace. Ready for production.

[Signed] The permanent secretary of the National Political Bureau

IVORY COAST

France's Mauroy Comments on Presence in Chad

BK010107 Hong Kong AFP in English 0043 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Abidjan, April 1 (AFP) — French troops are in Chad to "reaffirm the principle of the inviolability of borders," which Libya has mocked, French Premier Pierre Mauroy said here Saturday.

He told journalists during a brief stopover on his way to Gabon, during which he conferred with Ivorian President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, that those who violated frontiers "aggressed not only against one country but against all of Africa because it threatens the stability of states."

Mr Mauroy said there would be no military solution to Chad's problems and that it was for Chadians to settle their own disputes with each other.

He said he had discussed with Mr Houphouet-Boigny the prospects for the forthcoming organization of African Unity (OAU) summit, which has been scheduled for Conakry next month but which may now be delayed because of the death last week of Guinean leader Ahmed Sekou Toure. The meeting would probably have to be put off, he said.

French-Ivorian relations were very good, Mr Mauroy added, praising Ivory Coast as "a credit to all Africa."

LIBERIA

Ghana's Accusation of Ivory Coast Reported

AB311305 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1200 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Ghana has accused the Ivory Coast of allowing anti-Ghanaian dissidents to operate from its territory. Accra Radio said the government has conclusive evidence that some of the dissidents captured last week had undergone training and had planned the action in Ivory Coast, with the cooperation of that country's security forces. On Sunday, the radio spoke of security operations against the dissidents, close to border with Ivory Coast, in which several people had been killed or wounded. Ivory Coast officials said however, that they have no evidence of any clashes.

Head of State Doe Returns From Guinea

AB301220 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1200 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The head of state, Commander in Chief Samuel Kanyon Doe, has returned home from Conakry, Guinea where he participated in the funeral of the late Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure.

MALI

Gen Moussa Traore Returns Home From Guinea

AB311425 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Head of state General Moussa Traore, who attended the funeral of Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure, returned to Bamako this morning at 1130.

NIGER

Kountche Returns From Sekou Toure Funeral

AB310830 Niamey Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] General Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council and head of state, returned to Niamey yesterday evening from Conakry where he led our country's delegation to the funeral of Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure. The head of state was welcomed upon his arrival in Niamey by Mamane Oumarou, chairman of the National Development Council and the Lieutenant Colonel Ali Seydou, general chief of staff of the nationa armed forces. He was later greeted by Prime Minister Hamid Algabit, cabinet members and members of the diplomatic corps.

NIGERIA

Buhari Holds Talks With Pakistan's Ziaul Haq

AB310845 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Talks were held yesterday in Lagos between Nigeria and Pakistan. The private talks were held at State House, Marina, between the head of state, Major General Mohammadu Buhari, and the Pakistani leader General Mohammad Ziaul Haq. The Pakistani leader, who was on a brief stopover in Nigeria, was accompanied by a five-man delegation.

A Radio Nigeria correspondent reports that the brief visit which started at 10 pm yesterday, ended at 1 am this morning before the takeoff of the Pakistani leader's plane at 0125 am During his short stay, President Ziaul Haq also took off time to visit the Pakistani Embassy where he met with officials and nationals of that country resident in Nigeria. It is believed that the visit of the Pakistani leader to Nigeria was the first since he assumed power in that country.

The head of state was accompanied at the the reception by service chiefs and some ministers who were present.

Gambari on Multinational Corporations Dominance

AB300945 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] Nigeria's minister of external affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari, says Africa will make economic progress if the dominance of the multinational corporations was uprooted. Dr Gambari made this remark at an international conference on the OAU, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Lagos Plan of Action, and the future of Africa in Ile Ife, Oyo State.

He said the multinational's dominance was so pervasive that it had effectively integrated Africa into the capitalist economies. The minister stated that the (?destruction) created between the multinational corporations and Africa had led to a monopoly of resources, exploitation of abundant labor, and refusal to transfer the needed technology for industrial progress. He called for a self-reliant strategy to plan African development on the national level and unity on the continental plane.

The Lagos Plan of Action is an economic blueprint for the rapid socioeconomic development of Africa. It was adopted at the Lagos special OAU economic summit in April 1980.

The 3-day conference is jointly sponsored by the University of Ife and the Ford Foundation of America.

Finance Minister Views Economic Situation as Bad

AB302156 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] The total indebtedness of the 19 state governments of the federation is 15.3 billion naira. Of this figure, 1.96 billion naira represents external debts. The minister of finance, Dr Onaolapo Oseleye, disclosed this in a nationwide broadcast on the nation's finances this evening. He gave a further breakdown of the state governments' total indebtedness in the following categories:

Total external loans signed: 3.8 billion naira; current liabilities — 6.8 billion naira; and internal loans from federal government — 4.7 billion naira.

Dr Oseleye pointed out that the total figure excluded money owed local banks as well as unguaranteed external loans taken directly by the states. He put the Federal Government's total indebtedness at 26.7 billion naira with 5.3 billion naira representing external debts.

The minister stated that the situation was bad but not beyond redemption because of plans already taken in the next budget to be released in May. Some of these measures, he said, would lead to pruning unproductive and redundant elements in the economy. Dr Oseleye stressed that there could be no development without pain, and urged all Nigerians to support government measures by way of changing their orientations and reducing their preference for imported articles. He also urged workers to improve their activities to revamp the nation's economy.

FMG To Seek Increased Trade With EEC

AB300840 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] The Federal Military Government says it will explore avenues to increase trade relations with the EEC. The head of state, Major General Mohammadu Buhari, stated this at Dodan Barracks today while receiving the community's commissioner for development, Mr E. Pisani. He remarked that special government delegation would visit Brussels later in the year for talks with the organization's officials.

General Buhari said that efforts were beign made by the government to revive the nation's agricultural sector where rural development programs were being embarked upon for the improvement of the quality of life for the people. The head of state commended the EEC for participating in the commercial and development programs of the Third World. Mr Pisani had earlier expressed the desire of the EEC to develop trade relations with Nigeria and invited the Federal Government to send a delegation to Brussels for further talks. The EEC commissioner later met the minister of national planning, Chief Michel Adigun. During their discussions, the minister called on the community to assist Nigeria and to give it the necessary encouragement in its efforts to revive the nation's economy. He said that the present administration believed that the revival of the economy should start with the development of the agricultural sector, adding that this was why a lot was being invested on the agro-allied sector.

In his speech, Mr Pisani remarked that giving priority to agriculture was a step in the right direction, but warned that the industrial secotr should not be neglected. He explained that agriculture and industry are to go together for better management and results. Pisani remarked that Nigeria represented a third of the total trade in the Lome Convention, and there was the need for a specific cooperation between it and the EEC. He said that the EEC meeting which will be held in Brussels in September will be aimed at making such cooperation more specific and efficient.

SENEGAL

Head of State Returns From Guinea Funeral

AB311015 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The head of state this afternoon returned from Conakry where he attended the funeral of President Ahmed Sekou Toure.

TOGO

Eyadema Returns From Sekou Toure Funeral in Guinea

AB310847 Lome Domestic Service in French 0615 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Excerpt] President Gnassingbe Eyadema returned to Lome last night from Conakry where he attended the funeral of the late Guinean head of state, Ahmed Sekou Toure. The Presidential Fokker aircraft touched down at the Lome-Tokoin International Airport at 1900.

Ghana To Reopen Border With Togo 'Soon'

AB301640 Paris AFP in French 1247 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Lome, 30 Mar (AFP) — The land border between Ghana and Togo which has been closed since September 1982, is scheduled to be reopened "soon," it was learned from reliable sources in Lome today.

It will be recalled that the Ghanaian authorities unilaterally closed all their land borders in order to curb trafficking and smuggling of cocoa, especially to the Ivory Coast and Togo.

In April 1983, Ghana reopened several points on its northern border with Upper Volta and proposed to the Ivory Coast and Togo to do likewise. Togo and Ivory Coast refused the Ghanian proposal, basing their argument on the membership of the three countries to the ECOWAS, which provides for the free movement of people and goods among member countries, these sources indicate.

The difficulties were resolved when a Ghanaian delegation led by Foreign Minister Obed Asamoah visited Lome early this week, these sources add. Observers consider that the Ghana-Ivory Coast border, which is less concerned by the reopening owing to the low trade rate between the two countries, is also expected to be reopened.

According to official statistics, in 1982 Ghana exported 548.6 million CFA francs worth of goods to Togo, while Togo exported 3.9 billion CFA francs worth of commodities to Ghana.

UPPER VOLTA

Sankara Leaves for Official Visit to Algeria

AB311351 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] The chairman of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] and head of state left Ouagadougou this morning for an official visit to the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria. The head of state was seen off by comrade members of the revolutionary government and the CNR as well as heads of diplomatic missions and representatives of international and inter-African organizations.

Algerian Cooperation Commission Issues Communique

AB311427 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Joint communique of the Upper Volta-Algeria Joint Cooperation Commission issued at the end of its meeting on 30 March in Ouagadougou — read by Michel Baliba, director of technical and financial cooperation in the Ministry of Planning]

[Text] The first session of the Algeria-Upper Volta Joint Cooperation Commission was held in Ouagadougou on 28-30 March 1984. The Algerian delegation was led by His Excellency (Abdul Nureddine), vice minister in charge of cooperation, while the Upper Voltan delegation was led by Upper Voltan Foreign Minister Arba Diallo.

The holding of this first session opens new prospects for the cooperative relations between the two countries which are engaged in the same revolutionary process.

In their opening speeches the leaders of the two delegation expressed their desire to give a new impetus to the cooperation existing between their two countries. After examining the various areas of cooperation in an atmosphere of trust and brotherhood, especially the areas of transport, communications, trade, economic and financial cooperation, as well as the areas of investment and equipment, the two sides agreed on the following essential conclusions:

In the field of trade, the two delegations epressed satisfaction over the results achieved in the wake of the Algerian mission's visit to Ouagadougou in January 1984 and agreed on the need to hold consultations in order to improve and increase their commercial exchanges. The Upper Voltan delegation expressed satisfaction with the decision of the Algerian delegation to make available to Upper Volta as soon as possible a permanent stand at the Algiers International Fair site

With regard to the agreement on air traffic signed on 30 March 1983 between Upper Volta and Algeria, the two delegations urged the respective air companies of the two countries to meet as soon as possible in order to draw up the practical modalities for the inauguration of the Ouagadougou-Algiers route.

On the procedures and mechanisms of bilateral cooperation, both delegations agreed to pursue efforts in order to study the possibility for the designing of an agreement on economic, sicentific and technical cooperation.

In the field of economic cooperation, the Algerian and Upper Voltan delegations determined a number of development projects to be executed shortly in the fields of transport, telecommunications, youth and sports, health, and animal husbandry.

In the sphere of cultural cooperation the two sides agreed to foster and promote exchanges in the fields of information and culture. Concerning training, the two delegations agreed to do everything possible to promote an exchange of information toward a better use of the possibilities existing in this sector.

At the end of the deliberations, the leader of the Algerian delegation thanked the leader of the Upper Voltan delegation for the very brotherly and revolutionary welcome which he and the members of his delegation enjoyed during their stay in Upper Volta. Fatherland or death, we will win!

Issued in Ouagadougou on 30 March 1984.

ANGOLA

Foreign Ministry: Dos Santos To Visit SFRY 3-6 Apr

MB311241 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1200 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, will visit the SFRY from 3 to 6 April. This has been revealed in a press release from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The press release adds that President Jose Eduardo dos Santos will visit Yugoslavia at the invitation of Mika Spiljak, president of the SFRY. The visit by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos to Yugoslavia — one of the countries which has always supported the struggle of the Angolan people — will certainly strengthen the links of friendship and cooperation between the Yugoslav and Angolan peoples, parties, and governments.

FAPLA 'Annihilates' UNITA Forces in Benguela, Moxico

MB311324 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1200 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] The national Armed Forces are continuing to inflict vigorous blows upon the UNITA murderous gangs which have been sowing disorder, [words indistinct] and terror in some areas of the country lately. In Benguela Province, the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] have annihilated a further 138 criminals during offensive operations which culminated with the release of 135 peasants whom the puppets had held captive after abducting them from their villages. During the operations carried out by the national army in the Chongoroi, Bocoio, (Sabinda), and (Ondula) areas, large quantities of weapons, ammunition, and an assortment of military equipment were also captured. In [word indistinct] FAPLA forces recovered 34 head of cattle stolen from the local population by the UNITA puppet group.

Meanwhile, as a result of FAPLA operations in Moxico and Lunda Sul Provinces, 76 UNITA criminals were annihilated between 1 and 25 March during offensive operations in the (Lucosse), (Munango), (Mucussueje), Alto Chicapa and (Muconda) areas. Large quantities of military equipment were captured, namely 1,420 hand grenades, 1,620 meters of detonating cord, 76,026 rounds of G-3 ammunition, 4,000 rounds of AK ammunition, 5 G-3 weapons, 2 FN weapons, 11 RPG-7's, 93 60-mm mortar shells, 318 81-mm mortar shells, 70 electrical detonators, and 207 TNT blocks. The FAPLA forces also captured 14 cartridges, 2 Dilagrama grenades, 537 MR-431 detonators, 40 cleansing kits, and 1 Claymore mine.

UNITA Chief Savimbi Interviewed on MPLA Dialogue

MB010903 Johannesburg International Service
in English 0630 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] UNITA leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi, says the independence of South-West Africa/Namibia depends on direct dialogue between UNITA and the MPLA. Radio RSA correspondent Cliff Saunders spoke to Dr Savimbi at a mass rally for UNITA supporters in southern Angola.

[Begin recording] [Savimbi] We are very happy and we support the peace moves, because since 1974 we have been advocating that the African independent states should talk to South Africa, because this would help both sides, first of all, to remove this sort of no confidence, and secondly, to try to benefit from the technical know-how of South Africa. Then, we think that it is a good thing and we hope that this move will make a right ahead [as heard] so that everybody will understand that we have to live together. We may have some differences but we cannot solve the differences if we do not meet and talk.

[Saunders] How do these agreements reached in southern Africa influence the position of UNITA, particularly the agreements between South Africa and the MPLA government?

[Savimbi] I think it does not harm UNITA at all in any way, but I think we can benefit from it. First of all, the MPLA have been saying all the time that if they needed the Cubans in Angola, it was for their protection against South African aggression. Now that there is an agreement between South Africa and the MPLA, there is a process of disengagement, there is a joint commission monitoring the withdrawal of South African troops from Cunene — then there is no more potential aggression from South Africa to Angola. Then, the real issue has to be addressed now. If the Cubans remain in Angola, it is not because of a possibility of an aggression from South Africa, but because of UNITA.

[Saunders] You mention the question of a disengagement. Do you think, Dr Savimbi, that there can be any disengagement, any cease-fire in the operational area, without UNITA's approval and without UNITA's cooperation?

[Savimbi] We are not and we do not want to hinder the process of the disengagement. The disengagement will go on smoothly because this was agreed upon between the South African Government and the MPLA government, and we, UNITA, are not part of that agreement, and for the fact that we approve the talks between anybody. [sentence as heard] We do not think it is a good thing to fear talking to even the enemies, so then we are not going to hinder it at all. But there is a difference from the disengagement process stepping into cease-fire, which may lead to the independence of Namibia. Then there, I think it will be needed at any stage, that UNITA should be involved. [sentence as heard]

[Saunders] Doctor, is a Cuban withdrawal possible without an accommodation first being reached between UNITA and the MPLA government?

[Savimbi] Sincerely, I do not believe that MPLA will relinquish the Cubans if there is no agreement between UNITA and the MPLA, because the MPLA will fear for their own regime. That is why I think now all the efforts should be concentrated on getting the MPLA and UNITA talking, because this would facilitate enormously the withdrawal of Cubans from Angola.

[Saunders] There has been speculation in certain quarters that there is a possibility of South Africa dropping UNITA, to use those words. Should that happen, what is UNITA's chances of survival?

[Savimbi] First of all, I want to say that we have good relations with South Africa, and it has lasted for 8 years. I hope that the South African leaders and the South African public, through you, they will understand our goodwill. But, also, we are realistic enough to know that there are interests to be defended, so we do not think that South Africa will sacrifice herself for the sake of UNITA. We want to say this firmly that, though it may create some few temporary problems to UNITA, the main base of support of UNITA is the local population, and we will be able to carry on our struggle as long as it will be needed.

[Saunders] What are your views on the activities of the United States in this connection, Dr Savimbi? Do you feel that the Americans have deceived you in any way?

[Savimbi] No, I do not have any proof that the Americans are trying to cut something [as heard] behind our backs. But we want to bring to the attention of the United States and the Western world that they should not make a mistake as in 1976, where the Clark amendment played into the hands of the Soviet Union. This is why I think the Western countries and the Americans, they should take into account the position of UNITA before going too far.

[Saunders] Mr President, do you regard UNITA as a guerrilla group fighting injustice or as a legitimate political force in Angola?

[Savimbi] A legitimate force in Angola, because we fought against the Portuguese colonialists, side by side with MPLA and FNLA [Front for the National Liberation of Angola], and we have been continuing to fight for the independence, freedom, and justice of our own country.

[Saunders] Turning briefly to SWAPO, how do you interpret SWAPO's reaction to the latest agreements between South Africa and the MPLA?

[Savimbi] I have to tell you I have had contacts with SWAPO, but since 1975 we did not meet, so then I do not know what is going on in their mind. But, anyway, their reaction is a reaction of frustration. So, but I hope that the African heads of state will bring SWAPO in line so that they will not hamper or rock the boat.

[Saunders] What do you mean by bringing SWAPO into line?

[Savimbi] Because we have heard declarations of President Kaunda, President Nyerere, and President Machel, and I think everybody feels that now there is a chance of solving the problem of the Namibia and solving the problem of Angola, and in one word solving the problem for peace in southern Africa.

[Saunders] Dr Savimbi, I noticed at the stadium the banner slogan saying that UNITA is the key to peace in southern Africa. Would you elaborate on that?

[Savimbi] We mean that if UNITA is taken into consideration, and UNITA talks to the MPLA, and we settle our differences, the conflict will be over in Angola. This will pave the way for the solution of Namibia immediately. And if the conflict in Namibia is solved, then we have brought a picture of peace not only in Angola, in Namibia, the cooperation with South Africa, which we will involve the whole southern Africa; that is why we think if UNITA is not taken into account, the conflict will continue in Angola, and from that fact, peace will not be possible in South Africa.

[Saunders] But Mr President, to sum up: How do you see the short-term and the medium-term future in this part of the world? What with South Africa and the MPLA having reached agreements, also Mozambique, SWAPO objecting to a large extent, and UNITA having been left out somewhat in the cold?

[Savimbi] I think that first of all, we think that their mood of detente, of talking, should be maintained. Even if it is incomplete, it should be maintained, and efforts should be deployed in order to complete the scenario, as I mean, bringing in UNITA, and on the other side, people will have influence on SWAPO to bring the SWAPO talking to the internal parties, so that we can solve all our conflicts, and we start a very big task and heavier, that one of economic development. [sentence as heard]

[Saunders] What would your relations be with South Africa? What kind of relations with South Africa do you stand for?

[Savimbi] Good, good relations, and it is not only because today there is that atmosphere of disengagement and detente, but because we have been advocating it for 9 years. [end recording]

BOTSWANA

Prince Charles Departs Gaborone After 4-Day Visit

MB301325 Gaborone Domestic Service in English
1129 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] The heir to the British throne, Prince Charles, left Gaborone this morning after a 4-day official visit in his capacity as director of the Commonwealth Development Cooperation [CDC]. The visit also took him to Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. He was seen off at the airport by the vice president and minister of finance and development planning, Mr Peter Mmusi, cabinet minister, members of the diplomatic corps, and the general public.

Prior to his departure, the prince, on behalf of the British Government, presented the vice president and minister of finance and development planning with 20 diesel engines worth 40,000 pula for drought relief. The engines will be used for pumping water from bore holes. Present at the presentation ceremony was the British high commissioner to Botswana, Mr Wilfred Jones. While in Botswana Prince Charles inspected projects managed and financed by the CDC and visited Serowe, where he paid tribute to the late President Seretse Khama and other Members of the Khama family at the royal graveyard in Serowe.

LESOTHO

Prime Minister Reacts to Pik Botha's Allegations

MB301742 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] The prime minister, the Right Honorable Dr Leabua Jonathan, has reaffirmed his long-standing belief in peaceful coexistence between Lesotho and South Africa. When asked to comment on the remarks made by the South African foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha, today in which the minister accused Dr Jonathan of disrupting peace and good neighborliness between Lesotho and South Africa, the prime minister said that the remarks were both baseless and evasive of the real issue.

Dr Jonathan said it was most surprising that Mr Botha, instead of addressing himself to a note which had been sent to him by the Lesotho foreign minister, Mr E.R. Sekhonyana, concerning a report of a meeting which he, Mr Botha, had had with some dissident politicians from Lesotho, Mr Botha was choosing to pounce on him, the prime minister, in this aggressive manner. Dr Jonathan said that the note to Mr Botha from Mr Sekhonyana had attached the summary of a report of a meeting which Mr Botha had held in Pretoria on 6 January with dissidents led by Mr C.D. Molapo. The report had indicated that Mr Botha had given certain instructions of a subversive nature to the dissidents and the Lesotho foreign minister had asked Mr Botha for an explanation.

Instead of reacting to the note and report, Mr Botha had first cabled the Lesotho foreign minister reacting to a different report by an unnamed Western diplomat in Cape Town and he was today begging the question further by firing unsubstantiated remarks against him, the prime minister said.

In response to Mr Pik Botha's allegations that Mr C.D. Molapo was a very popular leader in Lesotho, Dr Jonathan said that Mr Botha was entitled to his own opinion, but that it was the first time that anybody anywhere had ever made such a suggestion concerning Mr C.D. Molapo. Dr Jonathan said that far from this, it was he who had for a long time protected Mr C.D. Molapo, even within the ruling Basotho National Party, against widespread antipathy to him. He observed that one of the big stumbling blocks towards the progress of the so-called Democratic Alliance initiated by Mr C.D. Molapo was the convergence of views among Lesotho politicians against leadership of the group being taken up by Mr Molapo. The prime minister added that if Mr Molapo was at all popular, as Pik Botha would like the world to believe, this would be shown in the coming general elections. The prime minister expressed the hope that foreign interests would not meddle in those elections.

Concerning Mr Pik Botha's suggestion that he, Dr Jonathan, had also received South African help, the prime minister said that this was not news but a well-known fact. The prime minister added that he had himself often stated publicly that he had received South African help, but that he had never accepted that such assistance should have any strings attached.

Referring to Mr Botha's allegation that the prime minister was receiving elements hostile to South Africa in his house, Dr Jonathan said it would have been more meaningful if Mr Botha had named the people he had in mind, as it is otherwise not possible for anybody to comprehend what he is talking about.

In conclusion, the prime minister emphasized that he would always stand for peaceful coexistence between Lesotho and South Africa. He said this is why he had originally been labeled a South African puppet by his detractors. He said, however, that he does not advocate peaceful coexistence at any cost and that the principle of the respectability and dignity of man was a paramount tenet and a guiding factor of his political career.

Information on Plotting Requested

MB010524 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] The prime minister, the Right Honorable Dr Leabua Jonathan, has thanked those Basotho who have been informing the government of plans to overthrow the Lesotho Government by foreigners colluding with Lesotho-based dissidents.

In a statement broadcast on Radio Lesotho this morning, the prime minister appealed to every citizen to be loyal to the government, the nation, and to the whole of Africa by informing the authorities of further plans to overthrow the government or to destabilize the country. The prime minister said Lesotho and the Basotho, as well as Africa, are passing through a very difficult time which demands all citizens to stand up to defend their country against its enemies.

MALAWI

President Dissolves Cabinet, Takes All Portfolios

MB021438 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] President Kamuzu Banda of Malawi has dissolved his 12-member cabinet. A spokesman for the president's office made the announcement in Lilongwe, but gave no reasons. The spokesman merelysaid that, because of the dissolution of the cabinet, all portfolios would revert to the president. President Banda retained the portfolios of external affairs, works and supplies, agriculture and justice when he appointed the cabinet after general elections in the middle of last year.

President Closes Parliamentary Budget Meeting

MB310818 Blantyre Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] His excellency the life president, Ngwazi Dr Kamuzu Banda, has reiterated that the outside world respects this country very much because Malawi is one of the few countries on the African Continent that can feed themselves.

The life president was speaking in Zomba this morning when he closed the budget meeting in parliament. The life president repeated that whatever his people may not have, at least three things they must have, namely food, better clothes, and decent houses. The life president emphasized that to him independence is meaningless if people have to go and beg for food and live in conditions of poverty. The life president said that he was happy that the whole country has changed much for the better. Therefore, he said, any foreign journalist who may write or say that this country is poverty-stricken is a liar. The truth is, the life president said, that there is a general agreement throughout the world that Malawi has been transformed for the better.

Commenting on the deliberations in the house, the life president said he was happy because members spoke of specific development projects in their areas, because he wants people to back their arguments with concrete examples. The ngwazi explained that he was particularly happy to learn from speeches by some members that people along the lakeshore and the lower Shire were now growing plenty of corn — a crop they never grew before until he had appealed to them to do so. The life president said this pleases him because corn, apart from being a staple food in this country, is now a major cash crop in its own right and competes well with major cash crops such as tobacco.

His excellency, therefore, urged members to encourage people in their areas to grow more of every crop, particularly those cash crops which are in great demand on the world market. The life president then revealed that Malawi cotton, along with cotton from Egypt and Sudan, is in greater demand on the world market than other varieties. He therefore urged cotton farmers to grow more coffee, as well as farmers generally to grow more of every crop.

In his brief report on the deliberations in the house, the leader of the house, who is also minister of trade, industry and tourism, Mr Katola Phiri, noted that during the meeting members endorsed all that the life president had said in his opening address on the 13th of this month. Mr Katola Phiri also reported that the house noted with gratitude that, in spite of the difficult economic situation, the people of this country continued to have enough food throughout the year due to the life president's wise guidance. Mr Katola Phiri also reported that the house discussed the budget speech delivered in the house by the minister of finance, Mr Chakakala Chaziya, adding that in their speeches the members pledged to continue working hard by urging their constituencies to produce more of every crop to boost the economy of the country. On the report by the chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, the leader of the house said the house learned with sadness of excessive expenditures of government money, and added that the house was committed to bring the situation under control.

Speaking later at State House after being entertained to traditional dances, the life president emphasized that because the country is self-sufficient in food, Malawi has won the admiration of many countries, including communist Russia. His excellency said he gives the Russians credit because, as much as he denounces communism, the Russians continue to praise him and Malawi as one of the very few African countries that are able to feed themselves and where the living standards of the people continue to improve for the better.

MOZAMBIQUE

President Machel To Visit Zaire, Congo 7-12 Apr

MB010559 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] President Samora Machel will visit during the first half of this month two African countries, namely Zaire and the Congo. In a communique issued in Maputo yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs says that President Samora Machel will make an official visit to Zaire between 7 and 9 April at the invitation of his counterpart, Mobutu Sese Seko.

The statement also says that Marshal Samora Machel will make an official, friendly visit to the People's Republic of the Congo between 9 and 12 April. The supreme Mozambique leader will visit the Congo as chairman of the Frelimo Party and president of the People's Republic of Mozambique at the invitation of Denis Sassou-Nguesso, chairman of the Congolese Labor Party Central Committee, head of state, and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Congo.

Machel Reaffirms Anti-Apartheid, Pro-ANC Stance

MB011127 Maputo in English to Southern Africa
1100 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] President Samora Machel has said Mozambique did not want to kill off the African National Congress when it signed the Nkomati accord with South Africa. In an interview given to Radio France International while he was attending the funeral of Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure, President Samora Machel said: We do not represent the ANC, but we are against apartheid, against the bantustans, and in favor of the ANC. He said Mozambique had been fighting for the past 20 years — 10 years against Portuguese colonialism and the other 10 against the Smith regime in Rhodesia. Now I have no targets, he said, so why make war? Against whom?

6 More 'Bandits' Surrender in Zambezia Province

MB301039 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0800 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] A further six armed bandits have surrendered with their weapons to the Mozambique Armed Forces in Zambezia Province. The number of bandits surrendering to the FPLM has been increasing lately in view of stepped up search-and-pursuit operations. The intensity of this offensive has forced the bandits to surrender to the FPLM, because they are desperate now that they can no longer count on logistical support.

Meanwhile, the chief of the General Staff of the Mozambique Armed Forces has issued an appeal aimed at exposing all attempts by bandits to return to their former homes. According to the chief of the General Staff, there have been cases of armed bandits seeking refuge in their localities and villages of origin. The incidence of desertion and escape to residential areas has increased over the past 3 weeks.

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha: Shultz Proposes No Alternatives for RSA

MB301347 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1335 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Cape Town, March 30, SAPA — The United States secretary of state, Mr George Shultz, had no alternative policy for South Africa which would reduce violence, the minister for foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said today. He was reacting to Mr Shultz's call for change in South Africa as "an act of partnership among its peoples."

Mr Botha said he did not agree with American's claim that the South African Government's policy led to violence. "This sort of allegation is nothing new," He said. It was an oversimplification of the complex situation in South Africa such as Western leaders tended to make.

"I do not deny that there is a resistance to the policy of the South African Government, but Mr Shultz is not able to propose an alternative which will bring about reduced opposition and conflict," the minister said. It was a pity Mr Shultz did not give greater acknowledgement to the attempts of the South Africa Government to bring about reform in the country in a controlled manner.

"Both the prime minister and I have, however, warned the South African public that the U.S. does not have a solution for South Africa's problems." "The leaders of South Africa will have to find those solutions themselves and I believe that we are busy doing so."

Mr Shultz had directed his remarks essentially at the campaign being conducted in the United States against investment in South Africa.

"I agree with Mr Shultz that those campaigning for disinvestment are in reality going to harm the black people more than the whites," Mr Botha said. He also agreed that South Africa's peace initiatives made the continuation of the disinvestment campaign inconceivable because the Republic's neighbors — by their own public acknowledgement — benefited from South Africa's strong and stable economy and developed infrastructure.

RSA Envoy to UK Recalled for Urgent Consultations

MB011211 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1200 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha has announced the recall of South Africa's ambassador to London. He is being recalled for urgent consultations in Cape Town. Details of the move are still sketchy, but it is reported that Botha has admitted the recall is connected to the arrest of Armaments Developments and Production Corporation [ARMSCOR] personel. Botha is said to be unwilling to make further comment at this stage.

Three ARMSCOR officials and two others appeared in a London Court yesterday. They are charged with illegally exporting components used in antimissile devices from Britain to South Africa.

Visit Concerns ARMSCOR Arrests

MB020608 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] A spokesman for the South African Embassy in London has revealed that the South African ambassador to Britain, Mr Marais Steyn, will leave for South Africa today and will probably return to London at the end of the week. Earlier, the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, announced in Cape Town that Mr Steyn was being recalled for urgent consultations. Asked if the move had any connection with the arrest of ARMSCOR [Armaments Development and Production Corporation] personnel in London, Mr Botha confirmed this but said that he would not comment further at this stage.

Pik Botha on 1982 Security Pact With Swaziland

MB010534 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] The Governments of South Africa and Swaziland have announced details in Pretoria of an agreement on security matters officially concluded between the two countries more than 2 years ago. It was also announced at the same time that South Africa and Swaziland would exchange trade representatives in the foreseeable future. Disclosure of the security accord followed talks in Pretoria this morning between the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, and his Swaziland counterpart, Mr Richard Dlamini.

Mr Botha said at a news conference after the talks that basically the agreement was similar to the Nkomati accord signed by South Africa and Mozambique 2 weeks ago, in which the two countries pledged to strive for good neighborliness. In the agreement between South Africa and Swaziland, the two countries undertook to fight terrorism and not to allow their respective territories to be used for insurgency and subversion. Mr Botha pointed out that the agreement differed from the Nkomati accord in two respects: South Africa and Swaziland had decided to come to each other's aid in the fight against terrorism. In addition, it had been agreed not to allow foreign troops or military bases in their respective countries without due notification to the other.

'Political Reasons' Behind Secrecy

MB010641 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] The pact between South Africa and Swaziland was kept secret for political reasons. That is what South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha has told reporters in Pretoria. The nonaggression treaty was adopted in February 1982. It bars either country from allowing its territory to be used for launching attacks against the other. Botha says at the time it was considered expedient for the two governments not to disclose the agreement. Now, he says, the political climate has improved and the decision was taken to reveal the existence of the treaty. Botha and his Swazi counterpart, Richard Dlamini, also disclosed yesterday an agreement for South Africa and Swaziland to exchange official trade delegations.

English Rugby Tour in May To Proceed as Planned

MB301813 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] The England rugby tour of South Africa in May and June is to go ahead as planned. A decision to this effect was taken by the English Rugby Football Union this afternoon in spite of pressure on it to cancel the tour. Those who wanted the tour called off included Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Government, opposition parties in Britain, black African countries, the United Nations, church leaders, antiapartheid movements, and officials of the Commonwealth Games. The tour will give the Springboks the opportunity to play full international rugby for the first time in the past 3 years. A Welsh tour in 1982 and a French tour last year were both called off.

The president of the South African Rugby Board, Dr Danie Craven, welcomed the news. He said it showed that there were still leaders in rugby circles who were not afraid to stick their necks out for the sake of the game. Speaking at Stellenbosch, Dr Craven said the fact that the decision had been taken in England, the cradle of world rugby, would ensure future tours to South Africa. It would now be easier to convince other countries to allow their rugby teams to tour South Africa. Dr Craven said this could herald the beginning of a golden era for South African rugby.

Political Gatherings Banned in Cradock District

MB302017 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2011 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Pretoria, March 30, SAPA — The minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, announced in Pretoria tonight that all public gatherings of a political nature had been banned in the magisterial district of Cradock in the eastern Cape for the next three months. The ban — which excludes meetings held by recognised political parties or recognised institutions or local authorities — comes into effect tomorrow.

Mr le Grange said the meetings would be banned in terms of the internal security act in order to maintain public peace.

The full text of the minister's statement reads as follows:

"Whereas I, Louis le Grange, the minister of law and order, deem it expedient for the maintenance of public peace, I hereby prohibit in terms of Section 46 (3) of the Internal Security Act 1982 (Act 74 of 1982) for a period of three months commencing on 31 March 1984, any gathering in the magisterial district of Cradock taking place wholly and for as long as such gatherings last, within the walls of a building and which is of the following nature, class or kind.

"Namely any gathering at which any form of government or any principle or policy or action of the government of any state or the application or administration of any law is propagated, defended, attacked, criticised or discussed, or which is called in protest against or in support of anything, except in the case of any such gathering:

A) Held or organised by a political party as defined in section 1 of the Electoral Act 1979 (Act 45 of 1979);

B) Of any institution or body referred to in Section 84 (1) (f) of the Republic of South Africa Constitution Act 1961 (Act 32 of 1961), or any local authority as defined in Section 1 of the Black Local Authorities Act 1982 (Act 102 of 1982);

C) Or which at any time is expressly authorised by me or the magistrate of the district concerned.

Cradock Schoolteacher Detained

MB020538 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1200 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] The Cradock schoolmaster, Mathew Goniwe, whose dismissal sparked school boycotts in the town, has been detained. Franz Kruger has the details:

[Begin recording] [Kruger] Goniwe was detained together with his nephew, Mbulelo Goniwe, and Fu Calata, both office bearers of the Cradock Youth Association. The move comes just after the ban on meetings in Cradock was extended for 3 months. The ban was first imposed last weekend, when there was an outbreak of violence in the township. Goniwe was dismissed from a teaching post 2 months ago for refusing to accept a transfer to Graaf Reinet. He has said he regarded the transfer as an attempt to block his involvement in civic affairs. He is also chairperson of the Cradock Residents Association. Students have demanded his reinstatement, but the Department of Education and Training has refused to consider the demand. Franz Kruger, Capital News, East London. [end recording]

Nujoma Said To Offer MPC Parties USSR-Backed Bribes

MB310920 Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 24 Mar 84 pp 1,2

[By Jaap Theron]

[Text] Moscow has attempted to crack the unity of South-West Africa's new multiparty conference (MPC) by offering huge financial and other bribes to some of the leaderships involved in the MPC.

The MPC enjoys the full support and backing on the highest level of the South African Government, whilst it is presently working out (behind the scenes) a method to bring the territory to an early constitutional settlement.

The Moscow-bribe, which was revealed in Windhoek yesterday by the president of SWANU, includes large sums of hard cash, free motorcars, international recognition and free trips ail over the world.

SWANU president, Mr Moses Katjiuonga, said in a statement that SWANU and other smaller Black groups in South-West, including the Damaras, were approached by Mr Sam Nujoma, leader of SWAPO's foreign military wing, who offered them "unbelievable" bribes "in exchange for joining an international alliance with SWAPO". He said Nujoma's offer was aimed at a "SWAPO alliance" taking over South-West Africa constitutionally whenever there was a so-called free election.

Mr Katjiuonga said SWANU rejected Moscow's bribe, offered to them by Moscow's puppet — SWAPO leader, Mr Sam Nujoma, with the contempt it deserves. At the same time the Damaras and others who received the same offers also rejected the bribes and decided to rather continue giving their full backing to the SWA MPC.

SWAPO has its main support amongst the biggest SWA population group, namely the 500,000-strong Ovambo group. The attempt to bribe some of the smaller parties and population groups into entering into an international alliance with SWAPO was yesterday also strongly attacked by the other members of the multi-party conference.

When the SWA Administrator-General's office was approached for comment on this attempted bribe by Moscow yesterday, it was pointed out to *THE CITIZEN* "that the MPC has already developed into a vital and powerful unity which was unlikely to be cracked by Nujoma or whoever attempted to do so". The MPC was engaged in continuous talks in order to find a meaningful constitutional settlement in South-West.

It is understood that the MPC has the highest standing amongst the various peoples of South-West since the former DTA [Democratic Turnhalle Alliance]-government was in its heyday.

Moscow has clearly got the message that the MPC could provide the future rulers of South-West Africa and for this reason used a typical Soviet technique, namely to make offers to certain opponents of SWAPO which they could not be able to refuse.

If SWANU, the Mamaras and others have accepted the bribes of Moscow they would have become puppets of SWAPO, or in other words puppets of puppets of Moscow.

SWAZILAND

Mfanasibili: Coup Plot by 'Gang of Four' Foiled

MB020516 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 2 Apr 84 p 1,20

[Text] Prince Mfanasibili told *THE TIMES* at the weekend how he and Prince Bhekimpi foiled a coup plot which was climaxed by a dramatic palace confrontation at Phondo on Tuesday March 20.

In an interview which was held in a suburban house in Manzini, Prince Mfanasibili said there was an intense effort by what he described a "Gang of four" to wrest executive power, but that he, Prince Bhekimpi and other members of the Royal Family fought back and the plot aborted.

Prince Mfanasibili said if the plot had succeeded, he, the Prime Minister, Prince Bhekimpi, certain members of the Royal Swaziland Police and other people who fought to maintain the status quo would have been arrested and detained or "permanently neutralised or eliminated."

He stated that the group includes two cabinet ministers in the present government, one member of parliament and one Prince, but who is not King Sobhuza's son.

THE TIMES had approached Prince Mfanasibili to investigate why there were so many rumours that he had been detained and others saying he had gone to ground.

He said these rumours were being orchestrated by the plotters deliberately and admitted that certain people regarded him as a leader of those who were vigilant to maintain the status quo. He said certain cabinet ministers were also in the hit list. He said during the struggle, certain innocent members of the Royal Family were drawn in without knowing that they were being used or that a plot to "hijack" power was in the making.

After the interview, Prince Mfanasibili made the following statement: "In the last few weeks more and more people have appeared each day before members of my family and my colleagues asking the same question: "We hear Mfanasibili has been arrested, can you confirm?" "Since this rumourmongering is not accidental and since it is generated by persons known to us, for reasons also known to us, I find it my duty and obligation to inform the nation about the treacherous activities of a group that has for some time now, willfully and wittingly misled people in authority with the express intention of undermining and subsequently usurping the constitutional authority of Swaziland.

"For some time now I have been aware of midnight meetings and clandestine moves by a gang of four — two cabinet minsters, one parliamentarian and a prince. The grand strategy of this gang has been to sow the seeds of mistrust within the political leadership of the country and thereby bring about friction and division.

"To achieve this they have lied, misled and compromised the elders of the nation into actions that are endangering the political stability, economic well-being and national security. The reason for all this is to destabilise the country's internal position so much that they can easily and without much resistance wrestle the executive authority.

"Throughout their plotting, the group was aware that the major stumbling block to their grand design is me and my colleagues. Therefore it became a matter of extreme urgency in their scheme of things to find ways and means to discredit and even permanently neutralise me and my allies.

"We have kept quiet and watched while the gang of four has, in its frustration and fury, committed acts of public misrepresentation, abuse of office and willful deceit of the head of state. They have, in every step they took, committed a breach of their oath of office and opened themselves to charges of disloyalty." "They have without proper authority acquired Royal stationery and used government vehicles and equipment to produce a barrage of illegal instruments either to dismiss or eliminate me.

"In their moment of confusion they recruited innocent Princes and Princesses and directed this force to Phondo on the 20th March, 1984 to make an open bid for executive power. Had it not been for swift action on Prince Bhekimpi's part, other members of the Royal Family and myself, the future of the monarchy in Swaziland would be in jeopardy and I, the Prime Minister and my allies, certain members of the cabinet and some senior police officers would be languishing in jail.

"As things turned out, this historic confrontation provided the Prime Minister, loyal members of the Royal Family and myself with a platform to totally expose the political plotting of the gang and their satellites." "People who have been trusted with the welfare of this nation cannot be allowed to run amock. We have seen what happens in other African states when this sort of thing is not controlled."

Police Arrest Seven ANC Members From Mozambique

MB301706 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Seven members of a group of about 25 armed ANC members from Mozambique have been captured by Swazi troops and police. According to reports, the seven were in possession of bombs and guns. Our correspondent in Mbabane reports that heavily armed Swazi soldiers manned roadblocks on the main road about 30 km south of the Lomohasha border post throughout yesterday. Every vehicle was stopped, thoroughly searched, and the occupants body-searched. The ANC men are reported to have crossed into Swaziland from Mozambique to avoid the clampdown on the ANC by the Mozambican authorities.

Additional Details

MB301848 Mbabane Television Service in English 1815 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Highly reliable sources disclosed in Mbabane today that 7 illegal immigrants from Mozambique were arrested at Ma phiveni yesterday. The sources said one of the immigrants was armed with a pistol. He could not say when the men would appear in court to face charges of entering Swaziland illegally, but motorists coming from Maphiveni told the Swaziland Television Broadcasting Corporation they had been stopped and had their cars searched at a military roadblock near Maphiveni yesterday. One motorist quoted one of the soldiers at the roadblock as saying that the Army, which had been assigned to track down ANC elements, had arrested 7 ANC suspects and confiscated 1 AK-47 rifle and a hand grenade. The sources said the Army overpowered and disarmed the suspect, who tried to throw the grenade at the soldiers. The sources said the suspects had been handed over to the police at Simunye.

Three Cabinet Ministers Leave for RSA, FRG

MB301953 Mbabane Television Service in English 1815 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Three cabinet ministers left the country today for South Africa and West Germany. The ministers of foreign affairs and public service, Richard Velaphi Dlamini and Mhlangano Matsebula, were reported to have crossed the border some time this afternoon on their way to South Africa. No further details of their mission were available. Other members of the Swazi delegation to Pretoria are Magangeni Dlamini and the minister's private secretary, Dr Timothy L. Dlamini.

Minister of Finance Dr Sishayi Nxumalo was also due to leave the country this afternoon for West Germany. The objective of his visit was not immediately disclosed.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Attends Sekou Toure Funeral in Conakry

Funeral Delegation Noted

MB300838 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] His Excellency the president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, left last night for Guinea for the funeral of President Ahmed Sekou Toure, who died in the United States on Monday. The president, who cut short his Copperbelt tour, was seen off at Lusaka's international airport by Party Secretary General Humphrey Mulemba; Prime Minister Nalumino Mundia; Secretary for Defense and Security Grey Zulu; members of the Central Committee; ministers, and other high-ranking party and government officials.

Dr Kaunda's delegation to Conakry includes Political and Legal Committee Chairman Daniel Lisulo; Social and Cultural Committee Chairman Bob Litana; Minister of Foreign Affairs Professor Lameck Goma; and several other senior party and government officials. The president announced in Mufulira that he would resume the tour of the Copperbelt on Sunday in Chingola.

Kaunda Eulogizes Sekou Toure

MB010931 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, has returned from Conakry, Guinea, where he attended the burial of the late Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure, who died in the United States on Monday. The president, who cut short his Copperbelt tour to attend the funeral, described the late Sekou Toure as an international person, who had been the world's leading politician. Dr Kaunda said the only way Guinean people could [word indistinct] their revolution of their leader is by carrying forward his humanistic ideas, and [words indistinct] might decide on the concellation of Conakry as the venue for the OAU special states summit, scheduled for May this year. He said he hopes (?the summit would not be moved) but would be held as tribute that [words indistinct].

Dr Kaunda was met at the international airport by Party Secretary General Humphrey Mulemba, Prime Minister Nalumino Mundia, Secretary of State for Defense Grey Zulu, and other party and government officials.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Meets PRC Delegation, Australian Envoy

MB300945 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] A five-man delegation from the People's Republic of China which has been visiting Zimbabwe since Sunday called on the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, this morning at his offices in Milton Building in Harare. The delegation, led by Comrade [name indistinct], is expected to leave Zimbabwe tomorrow.

Later, Comrade Mugabe met the Australian high commissioner to Zimbabwe, Mr Jeremy Hearder, who leaves the country after completing his tour of duty. Mr Hearder presented the prime minister with a book entitled "Australia, the Wild Continent" [words indistinct]. Comrade Mugabe paid tribute to Mr Hearder for the work he has done during his stay in Zimbabwe.

ZCTU PRC Visit Scheduled

MB301450 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] A Zimbabwean Congress of Trade Union, ZCTU, delegation leaves for the People's Republic of China later this month for talks with Chinese workers' leaders and to see the progress which has been made by the workers in organizing themselves.

The president of the ZCTU, Comrade Alfred Makwarimba, told the ZBC in Harare today that the five-man delegation will have representatives from different unions in the ZCTU.

Meanwhile, a Chinese delegation of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions left Harare for Moscow today after a 5-day visit to Zimbabwe.

Rebels Attack Truck Recovery Team in Mozambique

MB301452 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] A report from Harare says a recovery team under armed escort which was sent to Mozambique to retrieve lorries ambushed on the Nyamapanda-Tete road last week was twice attacked by gunmen in Mozambique. A spokesman for Northeastern Transport in Harare said nobody was injured during the attack. He said the recovery team brought back 15 lorries belonging to various companies and 30 more were expected to arrive in Harare today. Some of the vehicles were still in Malawi and were expected later this week. Other transport sources said 15 Mozambican soldiers and 6 civilians had been killed by members of the Mozambican antigovernment movement, Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance]. They said the Nyamapanda-Tete route had now been closed to all traffic until further notice.